

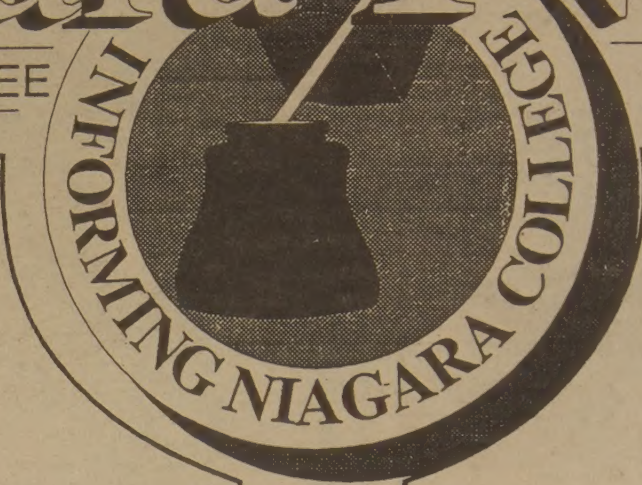
Niagara News

Volume 24, No. 12

FREE

Friday, Feb. 18, 1994

The inside scoop on
Niagara News,
see Page 5



Cops on
the beat,
see Page 7

Having a 'snow' ball, Winter Course '94



WINTERCOURSE

Smashing Ceramic Pumpkins (left) and Just Here For the Beer struggle to move a giant earthball behind the student centre during this week's WinterCourse. Other events included blind volleyball, snow pitch, snow football, sumo wrestling, air hockey and scavenger hunt. Prizes will be awarded to the top three of fourteen teams competing in the various activities. First-place winners will receive \$200. An air band competition and awards ceremony are slated for this afternoon in After Hours. For additional photos, see centre spread.

Photo by Greg Furminger

Marcotte Commission visits Niagara

By SALLY BOND
Staff Writer

The problem of providing quality education under financial restraints will be addressed during the Marcotte Commission's visit to Niagara College on Thursday, March 31.

Under the direction of arbitrator William Marcotte, the task force involves a five-member team formed to examine ways in which Ontario's 23 colleges can offer the best of education despite dwindling financial resources.

In a letter to all college, faculty, and support staff presidents, Marcotte said the task force's visits to Ontario colleges will play a "crucial role" in helping the commission to finalize its recommendations to be given to both the Council of Regents and the Ontario Public Servants Employees Union (OPSEU).

According to Marcotte's letter, information gathering by the commission began in January 1993 and involved:

- researching workload data for full-time faculty at various colleges during the 1991-92 academic year.
- analysis of the financial operations of selected colleges.
- interviews with college staff regarding the preparation and delivery of teaching material.

The Marcotte Commission's visit to Niagara College will involve three presentations by the full task force tentatively scheduled for 8 a.m., noon, and 4 p.m. in the Secord Room at the Welland campus. Blocks of time in between the presentations will allow for individuals or small groups to voice their recommendations.

Barry Sharpe, Niagara's director of the Foundation Studies

division, began his work as the college's contact person for the commission in February.

The importance of the Marcotte Commission has become evident, Sharpe said, as "fiscal reality needs to become part or our mode of thinking within the college system."

"There is a lower level of funding per student and it will take the co-operation of all groups to ensure we continue to provide a quality educational experience," he said.

The implementation of the Social Contract, instituted by the provincial government to reduce its deficit, has only "highlighted" financial troubles for the college system, he added.

Students are invited to speak with the task force and voice their concerns and opinions and may contact Sharpe at 735-2211 Ext. 7466 for more information.

Students under warranty

By AMY NEILANDS
Staff Writer

Graduating college students may soon be sent out into the workforce with warranties.

Niagara College has been looking at this concept and is something the college may offer in the future, said Hans van der Slagt, vice-president administration.

If approved, the college will send graduates to employers with a guarantee that they have the skills to do the job. The course description outlines what the student is taught in class and what the student should be able to do on the job. If the employer feels the graduate does not fully have the skills to fill the job, the employer can send the graduate back to take additional courses, he said.

If sent back to college, students would not have to pay for additional retraining if the employer is not satisfied.

Holland College in Prince Edward Island offers warranties as well as several colleges in the United States.

"Warranties could apply to any program," said van der Slagt. Whether you are a graduate of journalism or a graduate from the technology department, the college will guarantee that you have the skills taught in class to do the job.

Van der Slagt said if he was an employer he would be "more inclined to hire a student with a guarantee."

"I think it's a good idea," said Mark Switzer, 21, a first-year Retail Management program student. "Employers would know they are getting students with good qualities and skills."

There are no definite plans on when this will be implemented in the college. Right now it is just a concept the college is looking at for the future, said van der Slagt.

Kiss the Flame



By Heather D. Hodgson
Law and Security Administration Program
Special to Niagara News

Medications, whether prescription or over-the-counter, are often seen only for their ability to relieve symptoms or clear up infections. Often we overlook the impact of even the most common ASA or acetaminophen tablets.

Any drug, once ingested, travels throughout your blood stream. Common ASA increases your heart rate to facilitate removing inflammation, blocks signals to the pain centre in your brain, and induces sweating to reduce a fever. It also can cause irritation to your stomach lining. High doses for prolonged periods can affect other organs such as kidneys. If a sufficient quantity is ingested, side effects could include blurred vision, vomiting, dizziness, and unconsciousness. A co-relation between administering ASA for flu-like symptoms in young children and Reyes Syndrome has also been discovered. Reyes Syndrome can be fatal. This long standing remedy can have devastating effects if not treated with respect.

Acetaminophen, a common ASA substitute, has similar effects on symptoms: pain killer and fever reduction. It does not have anti-inflammatory properties. High doses for prolonged periods can affect the liver. Once again, toxic side effects can occur if sufficient quantities are ingested and death follows.

Cold remedies usually include one of the above drugs. READ THE LABEL. If in doubt, check with the pharmacist. Information on quantity and frequency of usage, side effects, contra indications and warnings are also on the label.

Prescription drugs usually carry warning labels if problems could result from ingesting them with alcohol or some other drug. Directions for quantity and frequency of usage are also present. Your name, the doctor's name and date of the prescription are also printed on the label.

Common problems with prescriptions include ignoring directions, putting medication in another container that lacks the above information and sharing prescription drugs.

Keep in mind that the prescription was given, based on your size, weight, age, other medical problems, allergies as well as your symptoms.

Even someone with similar symptoms may have a completely different cause. Your prescription given to a friend or relative could trigger unwanted side effects, an irritation of his or her ailment (it may not be what you had) or even an allergic reaction.

Accidental poisonings in children are sometimes the result of youngsters finding "candies" in purses, cupboards, night stands, etc. Constant vigilance is built in if young children are in the picture. It is easier to forget about medications with occasional visits.

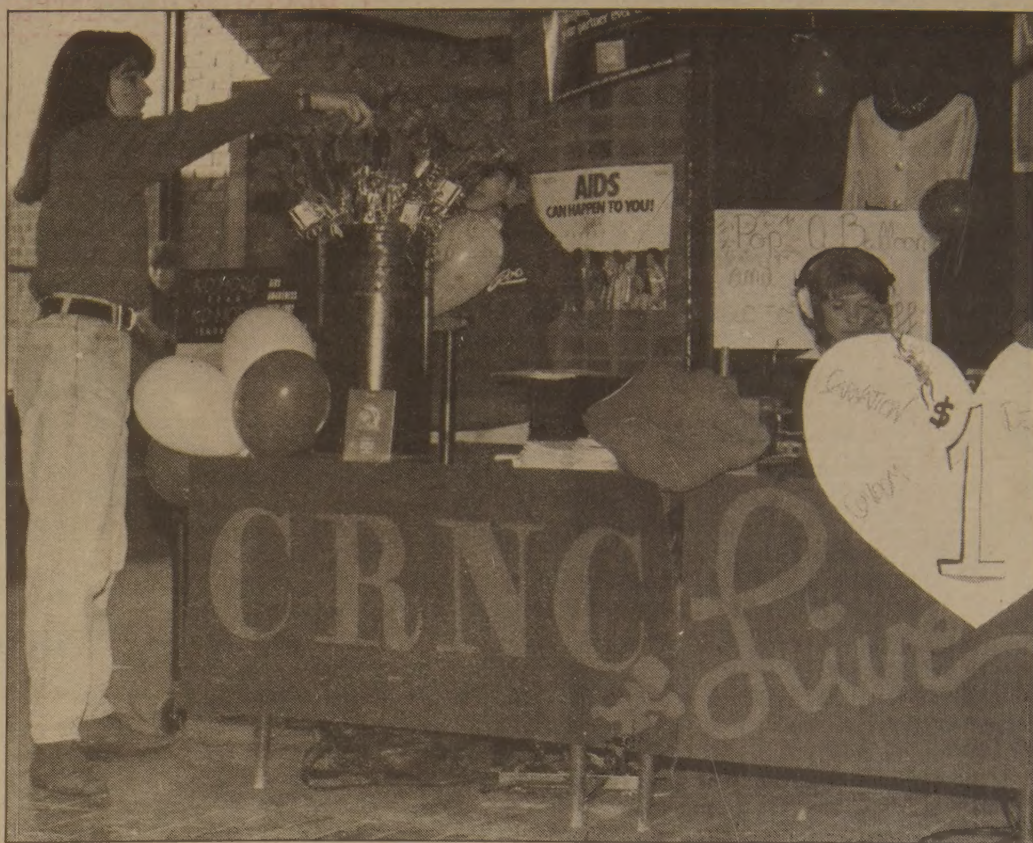
Telling children that medicine is candy is another contributing factor to accidental poisoning. Child medications often taste good. A young child may decide to help himself or herself to more "candy" if not properly alerted that drugs are only given by mom or dad, etc.

Flavored vitamins that contain iron are frequently found in households with youngsters. Cartoon characters in bright colors and fruit colors are among the favorites. Vitamins that contain iron, if ingested in sufficient quantity, can cause serious damage, even death to young children.

Another factor in child accidental poisoning is the "helping" nature of some children. Younger sibling or friend doesn't feel good. Mom or dad used this bottle when they didn't feel good. Sibling or friend is given the medication, sometimes with tragic results.

Even preschoolers can understand directions. Simple instructions alerting the child to never take **anything** unless given by mom, dad, etc. reinforced whenever medication is necessary is a positive safeguard. Alerting older siblings is also required.

Simple guidelines? Anything taken into the body, excluding food, for the purpose of physical, mental or physiological change is a drug. Any drug can be misused or abused if not taken according to directions. This misuse or abuse can have tragic results. Safeguard yourself and those you care about.



You're live on CRNC!

Second-year BRTV students Pauline LeBrun, 20, (on left) and Lisa Mercer, 22, help promote CRNC during a live broadcast in front of the library on Valentine's Day.

Photo by Tom Brank

SAC fills vacant rep positions

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council is now playing with a full deck of cards.

Program representatives for SAC elected two individuals to fill student rep positions on council left vacant during the chaos that saw four members removed from SAC based on academic status.

Second-year Operations Management program student Crystal Lundy and first-year Social Service Worker program student Steve McCutcheon took immediate possession of office last week.

Lundy, 23, of Niagara Falls, said she will apply her past experience gained while sitting on council at Nova Scotia Community College. As a married mother of a little girl, Lundy said she hopes she can bring 'mothers and married students' perspectives to SAC.

Her marital status and young age enables her to "still see issues from both perspectives," she said.

McCutcheon, a 25-year old res-

ident of Fort Erie, said he believes the controversial events of SAC's year are coming to an end. He still believes there is a need to bring increased awareness to students in regard to SAC activities.

"Both Lundy and McCutcheon

have been active during their roles as program representatives and will make valuable additions to our team," said SAC executive vice-president Trevor Obee. "Everything is now in place for (SAC) to do what it needs to for the students."

Your new Council

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

This is your new 1994 Student Administrative Council:

President — Frank Keltos
Executive vice-president — Trevor Obee
Vice-president athletics — Scott Currie
Vice-president social — Bernie Kurek
Vice-president internal — Nancy Grimminck
Vice-president external — Jeff Poulin
Student representatives — Kerrie Cooper, Crystal Lundy, Steve McCutcheon

SAC elections draw near

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Just as things are getting settled with Student Administrative Council personnel, it's time to think about nominating candidates for next year's SAC.

Nomination kits will be available Feb. 21 to 28 in the Counselling Office (ME103) for students returning to Niagara College next year and who are interested in running for SAC.

Eligible candidates will be announced March 7.

Elections will be held the week of April 11.

NEW IN TOWN ???
NEED A FLORIST ???

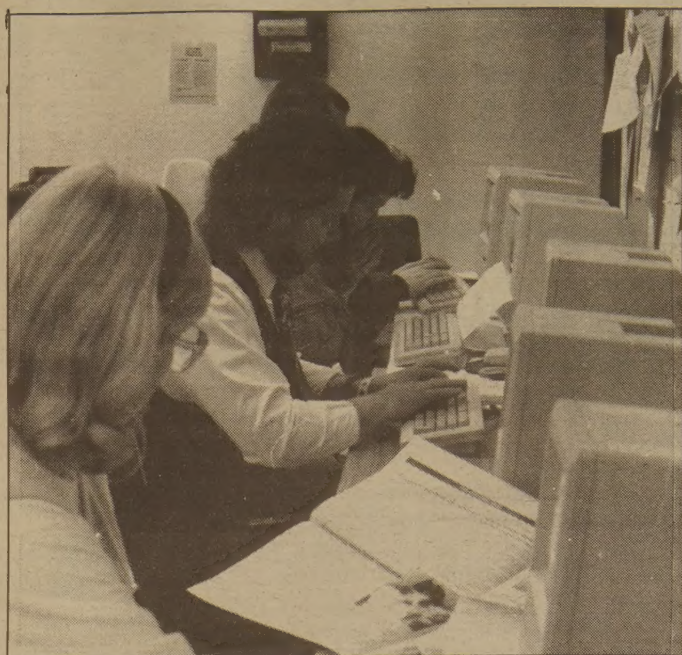
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Staff writers work hard to meet Monday's deadline.

Photo by Tina Young



Monika Queckenstedt (left) conducts an interview. Interviewing is a big part of being a journalist.

Photo by Mike Michaud

Students pull double duty to produce Niagara News

By MIKE MICHAUD
Staff Writer

Creating a newspaper every week while holding down a full course load isn't easy, but these students do it.

The Niagara News is produced by second-year Journalism-Print program students at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Niagara News gives graduates "the same experience they would get from a year on the job," says Journalism-Print program co-ordinator Phyllis Barnatt, a former managing editor of a community newspaper.

During the third term (from September to December), the Niagara News is published once every two weeks. From January to March, the tabloid is published weekly.

About 30 second-year students go on a month-long work term during April.

Work done on the Niagara News helps because "it provides the job experience a hiring editor is looking for," said Barnatt.

In addition to having regular classes, Journalism-Print students are assigned to report on different areas (beats) at the various campuses of Niagara College. Students are responsible for writing and editing stories for each week's paper.

"It's difficult to balance the workload between classroom assignments and Niagara News because both involve a lot of time and effort," says 23-year-old Tom Brank, this edition's associate editor.

A different student becomes editor of the Niagara News for each edition. The present editor chooses his or her associate editor who, in turn, becomes the editor for the next edition. With the help of Barnatt and journalism instructor Gary Erb, the editors make all the major decisions concerning the newspaper.

On Wednesday, page assignments are listed on the chalkboard in the newsroom. For those students with a page to layout, Erb's Wednesday afternoon layout and design class is a perfect time to start. The students are given a list of how many stories and pictures will be on the page, but it's up to them to design the page and put it all together. This can only be done with properly edited copy and well developed photographs.

Pictures play an important role in any newspaper and Niagara News is no different. The photo crew, which also changes every week, is responsible for developing all the pictures for the paper. Beginning Monday, members of the photo crew spend many hours in the darkroom developing film, making the contact sheets used in selecting pictures, and enlarging the photos that will be in the paper. This co-ordination all comes together on the busiest day of all - production day.

Thursday is production day for the Niagara News. Second-year Journalism-Print students have no regular classes on Thursdays, but that doesn't mean they don't work.

"Production day is very stressful and very hectic," says Noreen Bond, 19. Bond says little things like over-

crowded computers or a broken wax machine can push you "to the point where you say 'I can't do this anymore.'"

Production day is the day the Niagara News is actually created and usually begins about 8:30 a.m. The students spend the day laying out their pages and helping each other.

For anyone without a page, there are many things to do. From waxing paper to writing headlines, people with no specific assigned duties are often the busiest in the newsroom. Fortunately, the anxiety and chaos of production day ends at about 4 p.m. when the finished pages are delivered to the printer.

By early Friday afternoon, 3,500 copies of this edition of the Niagara News arrive at Niagara College's Print Centre. From here, the work continues. The newspapers are also distributed by the Journalism-Print students. Copies are delivered to all Niagara's campuses. More than 200 copies are mailed to other schools, newspapers and individuals in places as far away as Nova Scotia and Tennessee.

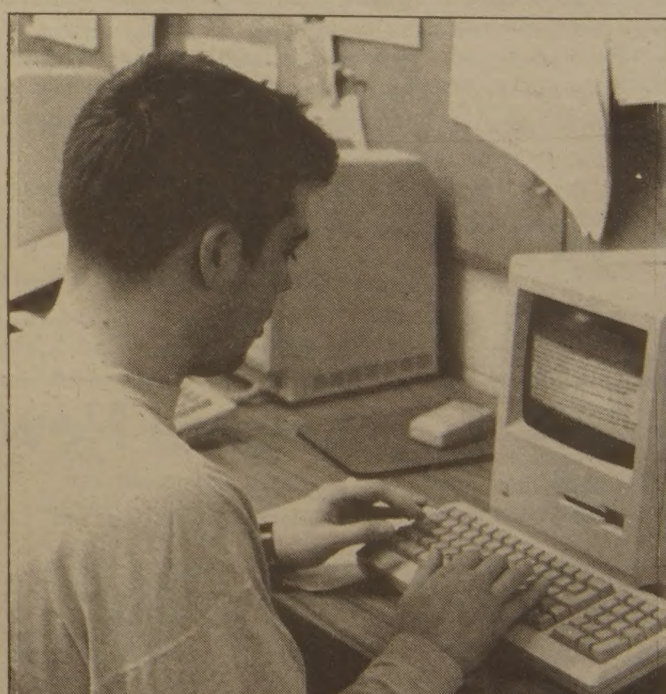
To many people, the Niagara News is just a college newspaper they don't think twice about. But to the students who make it, the Niagara News is a full-time commitment.

This article is only a brief look at a week in the life of your school newspaper. Next time you see a copy of Niagara News lying on the stands, pick it up and read it; you might be surprised.



Second-year Journalism-Print student Chris Russo lays out the Valentine's edition of the Niagara News.

Photo by Tina Young



Craig Litchfield types in copy. All stories are edited by the students.

Photo by Mike Michaud

EDITORIAL PAGE

SAC accomplishes what?

Wondering what your Student Administrative Council fee has accomplished? Read on. Please keep your screams to a minimum.

SAC forks out hundreds of dollars annually for entertainers to perform at the college. Performers are chosen by SAC members after considering quality and student response.

Musician Mike Woods and his pals raked in a cool \$350 each, or about \$10 a head since 35 students attended his show. Would you have paid \$10 a ticket, had you known the cost?

Hypnotist Casey Bones pocketed \$1,150 for his show. He should have levitated students at that price.

Brantford chiropractor Pat Hewitt received \$700 for his rendition of jukebox-cover tunes. Having a slow year doctor?

Come on SAC! Economically and musically, the free-spending 1980s are dead. Let's get some new grooves happenin'.

SAC could save hundreds of dollars by booking local artists. They charge a fraction of the price former entertainers charged.

With the savings, SAC could buy a public-address system for future SAC events. Shows could be recorded by Broadcast, Radio and Television program students and played on the college radio station CRNC. The tapes could be distributed to encourage people to attend future shows. (The thought of SAC making money is quite chilling, isn't it?) Niagara Knight spirit could be boosted by making the pub a happenin' place.

Newly-appointed Vice-President Trevor Obee and vice-president social director Bernie Kurek are doing a tremendous job. They are attempting to change SAC spending habits by encouraging students to perform at the open-mike coffee house.

Economically and musically, Obee and Kurek have got it together. We hope their efforts are matched by SAC's entire administrative staff.

Jennifer Sheridan

Olympic media circus appalling

The media zoo has arrived in Lillehammer, Norway.

Reports from the tiny community seem to be more focused on the Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan figure skating fiasco than the Olympic Winter Games themselves.

Enough about Tonya and her troubles! The whole soap opera has been the No. 1 story for over a month, but the plot isn't getting any thicker.

Instead the media insists the story is the talk of the Olympics. Should we expect a movie and book release soon?

I'm tired of seeing Tonya Harding on television. The Olympics is no place to expand the complicated story, but the media will not let me forget. In fact, I get 30-minute updates from CNN on her location and latest response to the same questions.

Canada's CTV network has willingly jumped on the Harding bandwagon. Instead of providing more live coverage of the games, the network has let itself become caught up in interviews, analysis, and predictions for the figure skating scenario.

It seems the CTV has decided that highlights, endless commercials and important Harding updates will take up enough time to fill their lengthy programming day.

Sensationalism is getting boring. People watch the Olympics for the glory, not for the guilty plea.

Tom Brank

Wacky winter fun

By DIANA BERARDI
Staff Writer

A week of "Wild Wacky Winter" activities are planned for the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls.

Starting Monday, Feb. 21, students at the centre can participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities planned by the Hospitality Tourism Council (HTC), said Steve Harris, HTC president.

Wild Wacky Winter events include:

Monday- **Movie Night** - 6:30 p.m., Niagara Square Cinemas at 7555 Montrose Road- *see the movie of your choice*

Tuesday- **Bowling Bash** - 7 p.m. at Mid Town Bowling lanes at 5685 Ferry St.

Wednesday- **Tackle Football** - 3 p.m. start behind Hospitality Centre - *5 member team minimum*

Tobogganing - 5:30 p.m. at Fireman's Park- *bring your own toboggans*

Pajama Jammer Pub - 9 p.m., McLeod Street Station at 6080 McLeod Rd.- *drink specials, door prizes, prizes for sexiest p.j.'s and best boxers*

Thursday- **Pool Night** - 7:30 p.m., Classic Billiards Club at 7000 McLeod Rd.- *Niagara College I.D. required*

Friday- **Skating** - 6 to 9 p.m., Niagara Falls Lion's Club rink on Drummond Rd.

"Come out and have a good time," said Roy Kiers, vice-president of the HTC.

For more information or to sign up for these events visit the HTC office or call 374-4400.

SAC awareness pays off

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Student Administrative Council executive vice-president Trevor Obee announced Monday that student input to council has "increased dramatically" since the start of second semester.

SAC launched a major awareness campaign in January — How Can We Help You (What Can We Do for You) — which has had great success in improving SAC-student relations, said Obee.

A press release stated that SAC office traffic has increased 15 per cent, personal inquiries and requests have increased 50 per cent and response to SAC-sponsored events has more than doubled.

"Response from the student body has increased dramatically," said Obee. "This proves that the steps I had taken while vice-president internal to improve the links of communication between the students and (SAC) have paid off."

"That only means better quality services for students because their input is more readily available," he said.

SAC was suffering from poor student interest in council-operated activities during first semester.

"The battle against fighting student apathy is far from over," Obee said. "But...the ball seems to be in our court, and we're winning the game."

Correction

In a front-page story in last week's edition of Niagara News (Vol. 24, No. 11, Friday, Feb. 11), Mary Hornak's position was incorrectly identified.

She is the executive secretary to Niagara College's board of governors. The Niagara News apologizes for the error.

Niagara News

Editor: Jenn Sheridan
Associate Editor: Tom Brank

Roy Timm,
Photography Consultant

Vol. 24, No. 12
Feb. 18, 1994
20 pages

Larry Taylor, Publisher
Phyllis Barnatt, Managing Editor
Gary Erb, Associate Managing Editor
Karen Audet, Ron Tufts, Liz Pelt, Advertising Managers

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College.

P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-5365.

Letter Policy

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our letters to the Editor section. All letters must be received on the Thursday before publication week. Each letter must include the student's name, college identification number and program of study. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only. All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Niagara College, P.O. Box 1005, Woodlawn Road, Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2.

PERSPECTIVES

Light 'em up

By ELIZABETH BROWN
Staff Writer

Do you hate smokers?

If your answer is yes don't worry about it, most smokers dislike you. Many non-smokers have the attitude of "We are the greatest because we never started such a dirty habit." That's great but I did! So leave me alone.

Non-smokers have one bad experience with a smoker and throw all smokers in the same category of being ignorant.

WE'RE NOT.

If I'm at a restaurant and there's no designated area for smoking and non-smoking people, I don't light up when the guy beside me is eating his salad. I give him the same common courtesy I would give anyone, but, at the same time, I don't get any in return.

If I had a dollar for every time I hear "Why don't you just quit?" I would be a millionaire.

Firstly, who said I wanted to quit? If, and when, I choose to stop smoking, it will be because I want to, not because I have to.

All smokers know their clothes smell of smoke. Consequently, the smell is passed on to any non-smokers around us. We are sorry. We would prefer our clothes not to smell too.

Perhaps instead of the federal government increasing the price of cigarettes, it should come up with a plan for non-smelling cigarettes.

Maybe then non-smokers would have one less thing to complain about.

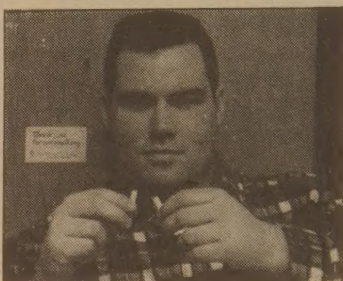
Smoking is not healthy. It's expensive and could one day be the reason I die, but I will die anyway, so let me die the way I want.



"Butt"

and

"Re-butt"



Butt 'em out

By GREGORY KELLY
Staff Writer

Are you a smoker?

If your answer is yes don't feel all non-smokers hate you. Those of us who choose not to pollute our lungs with cancerous tar-filled sticks feel only pity for those afflicted with your disease.

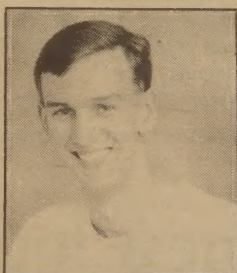
Non-smokers have this unfair, holier-than-thou label attached to us because we choose not to smoke. The fact of the matter is we just think it is a disgusting habit that breeds sloppy behavior. Have you ever looked at the cement around the entrances at the college or the dance floor of a bar? There is always an abundance of finished butts that stick to your shoe.



Smokers offer the fact that they do not like their clothes and hair smelling but let's be honest. To have to put up with that smell the morning after a night out is disgusting. You choose to smoke, so, now I have to stink - that's fair. But hey, you're sorry.

The fact is smoking is a personal decision, but that choice affects those around you. If you want to smoke then hey, all the power to you. But if a non-smoker politely (because there's no excuse for poor manners) asks you not to smoke, be considerate of his or her feelings. Because one day, we all will die. Let nature take its course without the help of cigarettes.

A view on the religion of smoking



By CHARLIE KOSCAK
Staff Writer

This is not a column about smoking.

I have decided to give the readers of the Niagara News a break from the smoking controversy and write about something totally different, something on

the cutting edge of intellectual conversations - why are hot dogs sold in packages of 12 and hot dog buns are sold in packages of eight.

You see, if I write about smoking, I ramble on about things like the history of smoking - like when the smoking properties of tobacco were discovered by North American Indians, the Natives used the burning weed to contact wilderness spirits to save their crops and grant them successful hunts.

Adventurers from the old world rejected the Natives' other technological wonders - the semi-automatic tomahawk, the

wooden flame-thrower, and the flux capacitor - but adventurers adopted the inhalation of tobacco spirits.

Now, the stench of smoldering blasphemy fills the atmosphere. The youth of the world still try to contact the spirits every chance they can.

A clear example of this heresy is between classes when all the smokers congregate at the entrances of the college to appeal to the spirits of knowledge. Although it is a method preferable to animal sacrifices - and easier to clean up afterwards - it still is a vain worship.

Non-smokers can help edu-

cate the smokers to bring an end to this paganism.

When the misled heretics search for a flame-brandishing totem to light the tobacco, reaching for one of the strategically-placed fire hoses and extinguishing the smoldering weed would gently remind the smokers about how dirty such a habit is.

Continuing to cleanse the person by hosing down the areas of his or her body affected by the unholy cigarette - such as teeth, fingers, wallets - would cause the pagan's body to be possessed by a demon. Profanities would be uttered and the victim will

be commanded by the demon to do harm to the hose-bearer.

Only through force - possibly a future inquisition - can we save the souls lost to the smoke tendrils of death. The tobacco will infect their minds and encourage the smokers into wilderness worship and gratification of the flesh.

I hear smoking is also bad for their health - lung cancer and stuff.

I hope you enjoyed this column about food packaging.

Join me next week when I won't be writing about which way the paper should be hanging over a roll of toilet paper.

Rodriguez sparks emotional debate over euthanasia

By JOHN SARKO
Staff Writer

Sue Rodriguez is dead.

The emotional debate over euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide will live on in the media and Parliament of this country. The suffering woman's plight was twisted and manipulated by legislators and judges bent on interpreting laws that would set precedence, not relieve her pain.

Prostitution is tolerated by the

courts in the form of extravagant erotic-adult entertainment. Yet the sale of sex is limited to areas of tolerance in the backrooms of clubs or the back seat of a car somewhere off Bridge Street. The sale of sex becomes not a free act of exchanging services by willing participants but an underground industry dominated by organized crime and hard-core drugs.

A debate rages between the

provinces over the golden calf of tax revenues from cigarette sales. These come with warnings for the consumer of numerous known carcinogens in the product.

Theoretically it is the goal of any stable political system to ensure the protection of the population that supports that system. That protection is a self-sustaining process of indoctrination that allows the system to

prosper as a loyal citizenry grows.

In a democracy it is a delicate process where everyone is supposed to prosper, if not economically than at least spiritually. The hypocritical nature of the Canadian political system leaves people soulless and without direction. Apathy is abundant and poverty rampant.

It is the average suffering citizen like Sue Rodriguez who

must shoulder the burden of mistakes and fumbings by the shallow leaders of this nation who continue to fail us. It is political cowardice that will not allow legalized prostitution, the banning of harmful carcinogens or legalize doctor-assisted suicide.

The Canadian political system will eventually suffocate due to the insistence of control and domination without a human face.

Students profit from contraband cigarettes

By AMY NEILANDS
Staff Writer

Despite the recent federal government crackdown, contraband cigarettes are still being sold at Niagara College.

Jed and Jeff (not their real names) sell contraband cigarettes. They like to think of themselves as young entrepreneurs who are "just out to make a profit." They are both Niagara College students trying to

make enough money to make it through the school year.

The federal government has cut the price of cigarettes in hopes of putting an end to cigarette smuggling, but Jed said "that's not enough."

"This won't put an end to the smuggling."

Before the government cut the prices of cigarettes, a pack could be bought for \$6.50. Now a pack costs

\$5.50. They sell their cigarettes for only \$4 a pack.

Jeff said people are looking for the cheapest price of anything and "if you can buy your cigarettes at a cheaper price then why not buy them."

The majority of smuggled cigarettes come out of the Cornwall area. This is where Jed and Jeff said they get their cigarettes. They are then shipped to Toronto where

they pick them up.

"It's a big operation," said Jeff.

He said the smuggling occurs through the Akwesasne Reserve near Cornwall. The cigarettes are made in Canada, exported to the United States, then smuggled back into Canada. The Akwesasne Reserve lies on the borders of Ontario, Quebec and the United States, and the cigarettes are smuggled through the St. Lawrence

Seaway, he said.

Even though the government is attempting to put an end to cigarette smuggling, Jed said it will still be just as easy to get cigarettes to sell and he will continue to do so.

Jeff said he doesn't think the government's attempts to end smuggling will last. "I think things will go back to the way they were."

"As long as people want cheaper cigarettes, I will continue to sell," he said.

Articulation agreement signed



Niagara College President John Saso (left), Lincoln County Director of Education Bill McLean (centre), and Mohawk College Vice-President Academic Paul Byrne (right) sign the articulation agreement which unites the three educational institutions.

Photo by Keri Reed

OCCSPA support uncertain

Obee urges membership

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Student Administrative Council executive vice-president Trevor Obee is urging SAC's board of directors to maintain membership with the Ontario Community Colleges' Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA).

Obee prepared a report last Friday to the board after returning from an OCCSPA conference held Feb. 4-6 in Sault Ste. Marie. OCCSPA lobbies provincial government committees that affect student life in Ontario community colleges.

The OCCSPA executive committee is asking that member colleges increase financial aid to equal approximately 37 cents per student per college. Niagara

College currently pays about 20 cents per student, Obee said.

He said past conferences have been labelled "drunkfests" and "beer conferences" but OCCSPA members are trying to shed that image. New measures include a responsible drinking policy, proper dress code, formal parliamentary procedure as indicated by Robert's Rules of Order and formal presentation and publication of position papers, Obee reported.

The OCCSPA executive committee is operating shorthandedly following the resignation of two internal co-ordinators, Obee reports. OCCSPA is also looking at the possibility of adding a new position to the executive — director of research, who would be responsible for preparing presentations for Queen's Park.

Orientation meeting set for March

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

A meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8, at 12:30 in ME 100, to discuss next September's student orientation activities.

Student Administrative Council liaison Lou DiMattio said she needs input concerning next year's schedule. She said she is looking for participants of past orientations in particular.

Anyone unable to attend the meeting who is interested in contributing may call DiMattio at ext. 7796.

OCAS offers award for new logo

By DANIELLE MEVILLE
Staff Writer

The Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) is offering \$1,000 to the person who creates a symbol or word which will visually represent their organization.

Entering the organization's second year, the OCAS in Guelph is responsible for processing applications and acceptances for Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology.

The organization is looking for a distinctive symbol which will represent the OCAS's strategy of using the most advanced systems to provide efficient and effective college application service, while maintaining their commitment to personal and friendly-client service.

The contest is open to all staff and students of the province's 23 community colleges, as well as the staff and students of Ontario's secondary schools.

The winning entry will receive \$1,000 as well as an engraved plaque.

The contest closes March 18, 1994. For more information contact: Jeannine d'Entremont-Farrar, Manager of Communications, Ontario College Application Service, 370 Speedvale Ave. W., Guelph, Ont., N1H 7M7. Phone (519) 763-4725. Fax (519) 763-4886.

Niagara and Brock partners with Thailand in education

By JOHN SARKO and
TODD LECUYER
Staff Writers

Niagara College and Brock University have joined with educational institutions from Thailand to establish The Centre for Industrial and Environmental Training at Burapha University in Thailand.

Niagara and Brock will be providing teaching, research expertise and equipment.

"We will provide training and lectures on-site at the graduate level," says Dennis Malone, director of International Studies at Niagara. Students from Thailand can do part of their studies in Canada.

The Thai and Canadian partners will work to develop practical development needs for the Chonburi area of Thailand at a time of rapid industrial growth. This

rapid growth places strains on the infra-structure in areas such as waste management.

"The investment is seed money to aid in development in a critical area of the environment. There is potential for exports for Canadian businesses," says Malone.

The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. By investing in such projects, the Canadian gov-

ernment hopes to establish the potential for new markets for Canadian business.

"The big question is: Can it keep going when the dollars run out?" asks Malone.

The project is expected to last four years.

"Thailand is considered a newly-industrialized country. The centre will help them with their rapid-industrial development and deal

with the changes that it is having on their society," says John Ogryzlo, general manager of Niagara's Centre for Environmental Training.

Niagara competed with 30 submissions for the project.

"Niagara is one part of four components," says Ogryzlo. "We're about one-third of the project or \$335,000 in funding. The project establishes our reputation internationally."

Night-patrol witnesses city's ugly side

By TOM BRANK
Staff Writer

This is the final of a two-part feature on the Niagara Regional Police Services. This report focuses on the experiences of a police night-shift on the streets of St. Catharines. I had the opportunity to ride-along with a cruiser-assigned officer and experience police work up-front. To protect the innocent, the guilty and myself, I cannot report exact names or places.

Saturday, Jan. 30, 1994. Niagara Regional Police begin the 12-hour night-shift with a 6:15 p.m. briefing for 17 officers at police headquarters on Church Street in St. Catharines. Briefing notes include several stolen vehicles in the region and an update on dangerous criminals seen in the area.

I'm riding shotgun with 29-year-old Const. Steve Chitty, a six-year member of the force, and graduate of Algonquin College's Law and Security Administration program in Ottawa. I don't know what to expect tonight, and frankly neither does he.

"One of the pluses of this job is that it's totally unpredictable," says Chitty.

I'm ready for action, but hey, maybe I've seen one "COPS" show too many.

6:35 p.m. — We leave headquarters in cruiser 1311 to begin patrol of 13th district, which includes central and west St. Catharines. The darkness outside is diminished by the green brightness of the MDT (Mechanical Data Transfer) computer inside the car. The unit is an officer's link to a library of information as well as other on-duty officers.

I ask Chitty why he decided to chose police work as a career.

"I like the adversity of the job. I wanted a job where I could be my own boss and basically, I just like to try and make a difference," he says.

6:43 p.m. — "1311 from 933," calls police dispatcher over the radio. "1311 go ahead," responds Chitty, into the radio receiver. The dispatcher reports a 948 (domestic dispute) on Cushman Road.

Domestics are priority-one calls; dangerous because officers are uncertain what to expect.

At the scene, we discover broken glass in the doorway and shouting inside the house. I'm wondering why I didn't stay in car.

The door opens, and a distraught, crying woman mentions something about her 15-year-old daughter and an argument. Chitty calmly questions the woman and writes down details in a notepad. He clears the incident with police dispatch and we leave.

'Unfortunately, for me to have a good day, means someone has to have a bad day'
— Chitty

"This job is a real eye-opener. Nothing on this job surprises me anymore," he tells me outside.

7:14 p.m. — We enter a home on Rykert Street to answer a call. A young female, recognizably frightened, explains to Chitty how her ex-boyfriend (arrested earlier in the day) returned and made threats to her and her month-old baby.

Chitty's friendliness quickly calms the girl and he reassures her to call police if the boyfriend returns.

"The most frustrating aspect of the job is that you're dealing with the same people over and over again," says Chitty after the incident.

7:49 p.m. — Call over the radio reports a hit and run involving two cars on Gale Street downtown.

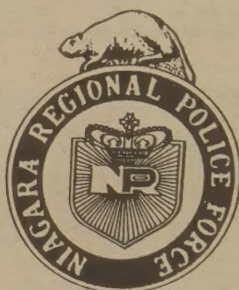
7:59 p.m. — People surround the cruiser as we arrive at the accident scene. Eyewitnesses give Chitty the suspect vehicle's plate number and he radios police dispatch requesting a city-wide alert for the car.

He takes names and statements from the witnesses and begins to write the accident/damage reports. Locating an address from the MDT, he drives to pay the suspect a visit.

8:43 p.m. — Things are getting interesting. We are staked-out down the street from the suspect's home while Chitty finishes paperwork. He predicts the suspect will arrive home soon. Driving a damaged vehicle around the city is a little risky, says Chitty.

9:04 p.m. — Bingo. A damaged car with a blown headlight confirms Chitty's suspicions. He swiftly pulls behind the car before the driver gets out. Busted! Chitty charges the driver with failing to remain at the scene of an accident and careless driving. Paperwork consumes the next hour, but for Chitty, his effort proves successful.

"Unfortunately, for me to have a good day, means someone has to have a bad day," says Chitty. "If I'm busy, it's at someone else's expense."



10:19 p.m. — Report of young persons attempting to steal a car from a Lake Street condominium parking lot. Chitty questions several tenants in the parking lot after finding a car with a shattered rear window. Another damage report to file, and another incident involving young offenders.

"These kids (young offenders) are treated as irresponsible kids — not responsible for their actions. But they know perfectly well what they're doing," he says.

The Young Offenders Act is "terrible" because the laws are too lenient on young criminals, says Chitty.

We cruise back to downtown headquarters for the 11 p.m. lunch break. The night's been quite exciting, but with the bars closing in a few hours, I feel the entertainment is just beginning.

12:06 a.m. — Back on patrol, we respond, with four other cruisers, to a 941 (fight) at a north-end bar. Things look ugly as a crowd of drinkers gather outside the entrance.

I cautiously walk into the bar with Chitty, who looks ready for battle, but the fight is long over and we leave without seeing any action. Chitty's right, his job is "totally unpredictable."

We continue to patrol the district, down sidestreets, behind industrial malls and around high schools. Chitty, I notice, glances down every street we pass looking for suspicious activity. He's anxiously waiting for his next call and says being busy is part of the reason he enjoys his job.

"You can go out digging for work all the time, and that's what I do...that way you get dirty," he says.

'Sometimes I tell people I'm a garbage man, because that's what it is, dealing with garbage all the time'

12:55 a.m. — 907 alarm call from dispatch at a closed north-end restaurant. Chitty tells me to remain in the cruiser while he enters the building alone to investigate. Back-up cruisers arrive minutes later and Chitty radios from inside concerning an unlocked door.

Asked if he's afraid of some aspects of police work, his answer surprises me.

"You don't have time to be afraid — your adrenalin is going and you really don't think about it (the danger), you just react.

"Crime is just a big vicious circle," says Chitty. "It keeps going so it's going to be more dangerous."

1:53 a.m. — Downtown hotel reports an intoxicated man lying unconscious in the lobby. Upon arriving, the hotel clerk tells us the man suddenly awoke and ran off.

2:15 a.m. — 949 (violent domestic assault) reported at an Ontario Street residence. We arrive with a back-up cruiser and enter the house.

An intoxicated couple, both bleeding, are shouting obscenities at one another from across the room. Broken glass and garbage is scattered around the house. Chitty walks into the kitchen and picks up a long bread knife from the floor. A six-week-old baby attempts to sleep upstairs. I stand in amazement, and by the look on the officers' faces, they seem as disgusted as I am.

The officers separate the couple and question them individually. Neither party wants to press charges. The man agrees to leave for the night.

"Sometimes, I tell people I'm a garbage man, because basically that's what it is, dealing with garbage all the time," Chitty says afterwards.

2:41 a.m. — Speeding through downtown on Code 2 (roof lights), we assist a fellow cruiser with a traffic stop on Russell Avenue.

Data from the MDT lists the two occupants as having a long criminal history and the situation could be dangerous, says Chitty.

He says back-up support is essential for officer safety. Minutes later, the officer clears the situation with Chitty and we pull away.

3:07 a.m. — The second lunch break begins, but I decide to cut out and get home for some sleep.

After 23 years, I thought I knew this city. Turns out, I just didn't know enough. But Chitty keeps it in perspective.

"Generally, I think St. Catharines is a safe community to live in," he says. "But I think the average person would be very surprised what goes on in St. Catharines."

Night deposit robbery in Falls

As clerks from a local retail store were about to make a night deposit, they were assaulted by two males. Two employees of "Match Ups," in Niagara Square Mall, located at 7666 Montrose Rd., Niagara Falls, were ready to drop the day's receipts into the Bank of Montreal cash box, but were robbed before they could do so.

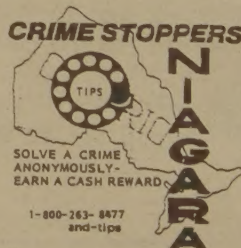
After closing up shop at about 10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1993, the two employees walked to the night deposit box outside the main doors on the east side of the plaza.

Before one clerk could open the drop box with the key, the victim was attacked from behind and slammed into the wall by an unknown male assailant. A second male grabbed the deposit bag and

the thugs ran to the parking lot, got into a car and drove north through the lot with its lights off.

The vehicle is described as a brown or burgundy Chrysler product, 2-door hatchback, possibly a "Daytona" or similar model. The culprits are described as white males wearing dark clothing. Police describe one of the men as being approximately 5' 10" and 165 lbs., with dark shoulder-length hair.

If you have any information regarding this robbery, or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477, that's 1-800-AND-TIPS, to be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000. In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.



The Niagara Regional Police, in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc., writes this column to help combat crime. A Citizen Board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax-deductible donations and cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, Ont., L2R 7A3.



Niagara Knight hands a leaflet about Bill-119 to Christine Rawcliffe, 19, a first-year Journalism-Print student. (See story on page 15.)
Photo by Stephen Krick

Search for dream vacation turns to nightmare



By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Winter winds are blowing, snow is drifting — it's a perfect time to go to the beach.

It's also open season on tourists for con artists.

Spring break is the time of year when college students pack a suitcase and head to Daytona, Fla., to find relief from hectic college schedules.

Two years ago, I drove down the eastern shores to Daytona in search of a dream vacation. It turned into a nightmare.

On the second night of a two-week stay, I returned to my hotel room after a drinking binge. Feeling quite hungry, I decided to order a pizza. Hotel regulations made it

necessary for me to pick up deliveries in the lobby. As I was paying for my pizza, a kind soul offered to hold the elevator.

When the doors closed, his first words were, "Do you smoke?" (in reference to drugs).

I told him, "No, but my roommates may be looking for something. Come up to our room in about two hours."

About two minutes later, he knocked at my door having made a deal upstairs. He said he had nowhere to go, until my friends returned, so I invited the man into the room.

He had a disarming manner about him. He told me where we could go water-skiing, what sights we should see and warned me of the bad spots I should stay clear of.

I forget the man's name, but he told me stories about Vietnam. He pointed out the scar on his chin and the tattoo of Mickey Mouse flipping the bird on his right arm.

Ninety minutes later, my roommates stumbled in and made a purchase from him. They were hungry

so the man told my roommates how he could get us unclaimed pizzas from a friend's place of work. He made a phone call as we rounded up some food money.

I walked about half a mile with the man and he told me to sit out front of the pizzeria while he went to the back door, saying he'd done this too often and didn't want to get his friend into trouble.

the receiver. I suddenly ran into the bathroom. I turned white as a ghost and then I threw up.

I realized the man stole one of our room keys.

We switched rooms that day and hotel management left a bouncer sitting in our vacated room which once contained over \$3,000 and credit cards.

Three days later I was in a gift

shop with one of my roommates when I noticed a man having his hair cut at the counter by the shop owner. I found this peculiar.

I told my roommate who the man was, 10 minutes after he left. I explained to my roommate that I didn't tell him right away because I was afraid if he went after the man, he could have been killed. After all, the man's a professional thief whose in cahoots with the local souvenir dealer and we left someone in our old room to rough him up.

I spent the remaining 10 days close by my friends or in my hotel room — only the odd time did I venture into the sun alone. I was in fear for my personal safety for the whole vacation. I never saw him again.

Students venturing south should be very wary of people with whom they associate. A friendly smile may swallow you up.

Students venturing south should be very wary of people with whom they associate

Forty-five minutes later, I woke up. I'd been stiffed. Me and my roommates combed the beach for the man but turned up nothing.

The next morning my roommates went for breakfast — at the last minute, I decided to stay in the room.

About one minute later the phone rang.

Nobody spoke when I picked up

shop with one of my roommates when I noticed a man having his hair cut at the counter by the shop owner. I found this peculiar.

We went upstairs to get lunch and the same man who was in the gift shop cut in front of the line to order. As soon as he spoke, I knew who he was. The man who ripped us off was now wearing a wig and was free of his tattoo and scar. I

Inexpensive activities for spring break vacation



By CRAIG LITCHFIELD
Staff Writer

It's February and for many the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) gravy train has ground to a halt.

Many students who depend on the generosity of our great government find themselves in somewhat dire straights come the late winter months. If you happen to be among this select group, a spring break vacation may seem like little more than a fleeting thought.

Think again.

Although sunny Cuba may be out of the question, there are other, much cheaper, alternatives.

Talk to your family doctor about the many vacation choices the Ontario Health Insurance Plan has to offer. If you can feign an addiction to anything (booze, dope, throat lozenges) your doctor may be able to set you up with a two week, all expenses paid vacation to drug rehab. They serve buffet lunches and there is plenty of opportunity to hobnob with celebrities. Here's

a tip, if they room you with Bob Probert don't touch his stuff.

For the, culturally minded, a trip to a local museum may be in order. The Spoons of the World exhibit is rumored to be coming to the Dain City Museum of Cutlery sometime in the near future, but call ahead for tickets as their operator has already been swamped with at least six calls.

Thrill seekers can stretch the limits of mortal man by wandering into any of Welland's seedier drinking establishments and asking for directions in a funny accent. Real dare devils will leave their medic-alert bracelets at home.

*You won't get a tan,
but it's cheap, fun and
almost legal*

For fine dining at affordable prices try a night out at Cheater's Tavern on Yonge Street in Toronto. The chicken wings are superb and the waitresses are surprisingly friendly.

Other getaway options include fat farms, drivers education or physical rehabilitation (for the fitness minded).

You won't get a tan, but it's cheap, fun and almost legal.

Bon voyage.



OCAA regional champions off to Sault Ste. Marie

Niagara College mixed curling team, left to right, skip Al Charuk, Susan Milkins, Penny Rominger, Jeff Reid, move on after becoming the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) regional champions. The core of veterans, lead by the strategic maneuverings of lead, Charuk, hope to sweep the field at the OCAA finals in Sault Ste. Marie on Feb. 25. The six-team tournament wraps up on Feb. 26.

Photo by Craig Litchfield

Joint effort to improve quality of life for kidney patients

By CRAIG LITCHFIELD
Staff Writer

Kidney disease has a formidable new enemy.

In an innovative approach to improving the quality of life for local kidney patients and their fam-

ilies, The Niagara Credit Union and the Prudential Insurance Company have joined hands with the Niagara District Chapter of the Kidney Foundation of Canada to become "Official Hope Givers" for the 1994 Annual March Drive.

The five regional Prudential Insurance Offices are providing their agents and managers to act as area co-ordinators and team captains. Each area co-ordinator will organize and direct the team captains, who in turn, will each be

responsible for approximately 10 canvassers. Prudential will also offer their offices as "kit depots" for pick up and drop off canvasser kits.

All 14 branches of the Niagara Credit Union are being utilized as

"kit drop off centres." As canvassers complete a route, team captains turn in the kits to the local branch.

For more information call Pat Hunter Taylor at 1-800-263-5362.

Health records technicians make a difference

By **MONIKA QUECKENSTEDT**
Staff Writer

A behind-the-scenes career may have more clout than a well-known career, especially in hospitals.

Health records technicians have a direct impact on hospital funding, says co-ordinator of Health Records Programs Sylvia Szabo, 33, of Niagara-on-the-Lake. "It's a low-profile position."

The Hospital Medical Records Institute (HMRI) in Toronto collects health care statistics from most hospitals across Canada, she said. Statistics Canada has an agreement with the HMRI to collect the data eventually impacting funding.

Niagara College offers two programs in medical transcription at the Welland campus. The one-year

Medical Transcriptionist-Health Records (MTHR) program and the two-year Health Records Technician (HRT) program.

"Anyone who enjoys statistical research and wants about as much job security as you can expect today, this is a good field to choose," says second-year HRT student Christie Hagar, of Niagara Falls.

"The programs are similar," Szabo said. Transcription work is basically collecting statistics and keeping up-to-date files on various medical cases in hospitals and other medical fields.

There are 37 students in MTHR and 17 in HRT, although collectively 60 students were enrolled in September.

Former teaching assistant Sharon Hospodar, 31, of Welland is a first year HRT student.

"It's very challenging and rewarding," says Hospodar. "You gain a lot from it about biology, diseases, terminology and law — there's so much information!"

Standard codes published in the International Classification of Diseases by the World Health Organization in 26 languages are used to make medical records of illnesses.

"The records are not just for medical care," she says. "Workman's Compensation receives records (and) insurance companies request medical records with the permission of the patient."

Medical records may also appear in court as evidence.

"For example, there's a car accident that goes to court," Szabo said. "They use the (medical) chart as evidence and a health records technician will go on the stand to answer questions asked by the judge and lawyers."

Although, traditionally, more women than men take these courses, men tend to be employed faster than women, she said.

"It's not an oversubscribed field like nursing, but because of the lack of marketing, people don't know it's a good career."

"I was always interested in the medical field but I didn't have the patience to be a nurse," said MTHR student Penny Rominjer, 36, of Welland. "This is the next best thing because I like to deal with people."

Placement in the past was about

70 to 80 per cent, however, Szabo expects the numbers to drop to 30 and 40 per cent this year because of the social contract and resulting cutbacks in health care.

"I'm worried about the students who graduate this year because there are few job openings," she says. "Students must be willing to move from the Niagara Region because it's saturated with health records technicians."

Hagar plans to look for work "in the States, somewhere south where it's warm!"

Szabo says job opportunities tend to be in "international settings" like Bermuda and Saudi Arabia, usually on a contract basis.

Niagara student off to Japan

By **DIANA BERARDI**
Staff Writer

First-year General Arts and Sciences student Gordana Pirker is off to Japan.

Pirker, 26, was invited to accompany the Niagara Select boy's basketball team and E. L. Crossley senior girl's high school team from March 23 to April 5 for a tournament in Japan.

The Niagara Select basketball team is made up of a group of boys, aged 17 to 19, selected from high schools in the Niagara Region by coach Ken Murray, also a coach at Brock University.

"I saw a flyer for the tournament and I called Rick Gorman (Niagara Select's general manager) and asked to do a story," said Pirker, who is taking mostly first-year Journalism-Print program courses and plans to enter the program next year.

After writing a story for the Niagara Falls Review in October 1993 and the Welland Tribune in November 1993, Pirker was invited along to be the teams' media representative for the tournament and the girls' chapter, she said.

"It's the first time Canadians in the Niagara Region have par-

ticipated in this tournament," said Pirker.

Niagara Select and E. L. Crossley girl's basketball teams will play against 30 teams from Japan.

All accommodations and transportation during the tournament is being provided by the Japanese. Students must provide their own airfare, she said.

"Everyone is doing their own individual fund-raising," said Pirker, who sold carnations, roses, chocolates and held a

Valentine's gift basket draw on Feb. 11 to help raise her ticket fare.

Band Fest, a group fund-raising event, will be held on March 6 at 3 p.m. at the Caverly Hotel on Bridge Street in Niagara Falls.

Tickets are \$3 or \$4 at the door. Bands include Apostrophe, Black Rivers Blues Band, Great Guns, Shades of Ice, Springheel Jack and Split Personality.

For more information on this event call (905) 374-3331.



First-year General Arts and Sciences student Gordana Pirker (at right) sells a carnation to Visual and Creative Arts-Design student Linda Pirker to raise money for her trip to Japan.

Photo by Diana Berardi

Writing club organized

By **JILLIAN WATSON**
Staff Writer

Always fancied yourself as a writer? Niagara College's writing club may be for you.

Cory Modeen, a first-year General Arts and Sciences program student, is establishing a writing club appealing to poets, playwrights, essayists, editors and novelists.

If finances warrant, Modeen said he would like to see the group's uncensored work published in a monthly magazine distributed on campus. He will approach Student Administrative Council Vice-President Trevor Obee for financial support.

Modeen, 22, said he wanted to join a writing club and found out there wasn't one. "Now all of a sudden I'm starting one," he said.

"I'm going into this blind," said Modeen. But from what he's heard so far, Modeen said he's confident there will be a lot of interest in the club.

Modeen asks for people interested in joining the club to call him so he can determine how many people will attend. He can be reached at 646-4123 on weekends and after 8 p.m. during the week.

Messages may also be left with Carole Timm in S210, ext. 7726.

Writing competition pays \$1,000

By **DANIELLE MEVILLE**
Staff Writer

By creatively putting pen to paper, students can become up to \$1,000 richer.

A writing competition co-sponsored by Book City, a Toronto bookstore chain, and "Books in Canada", a national book review magazine, aims to encourage and support future Canadian writers through these awards.

Previous winners include Mike Dormuth, of the University of Regina and Chantel Lavoie, of the University of Ottawa.

This year there will be three prize winners in each category, including short fiction and poetry.

Prizes will consist of \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place.

All entrants must be undergraduate students at any Canadian university or community college.

Contest closes July 15, 1994 and should be addressed to: Student Writing Awards, Books in Canada, 130 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ont., M5V 2L4.

For further information contact: Books in Canada at (416) 601-9880.

BROCK UNIVERSITY AND
GREY GABLES SCHOOL PRESENT
CELEBRATED AUTHOR NAOMI WOLF

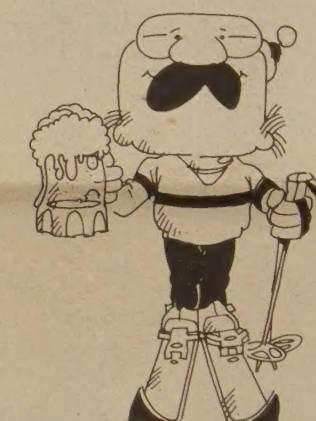
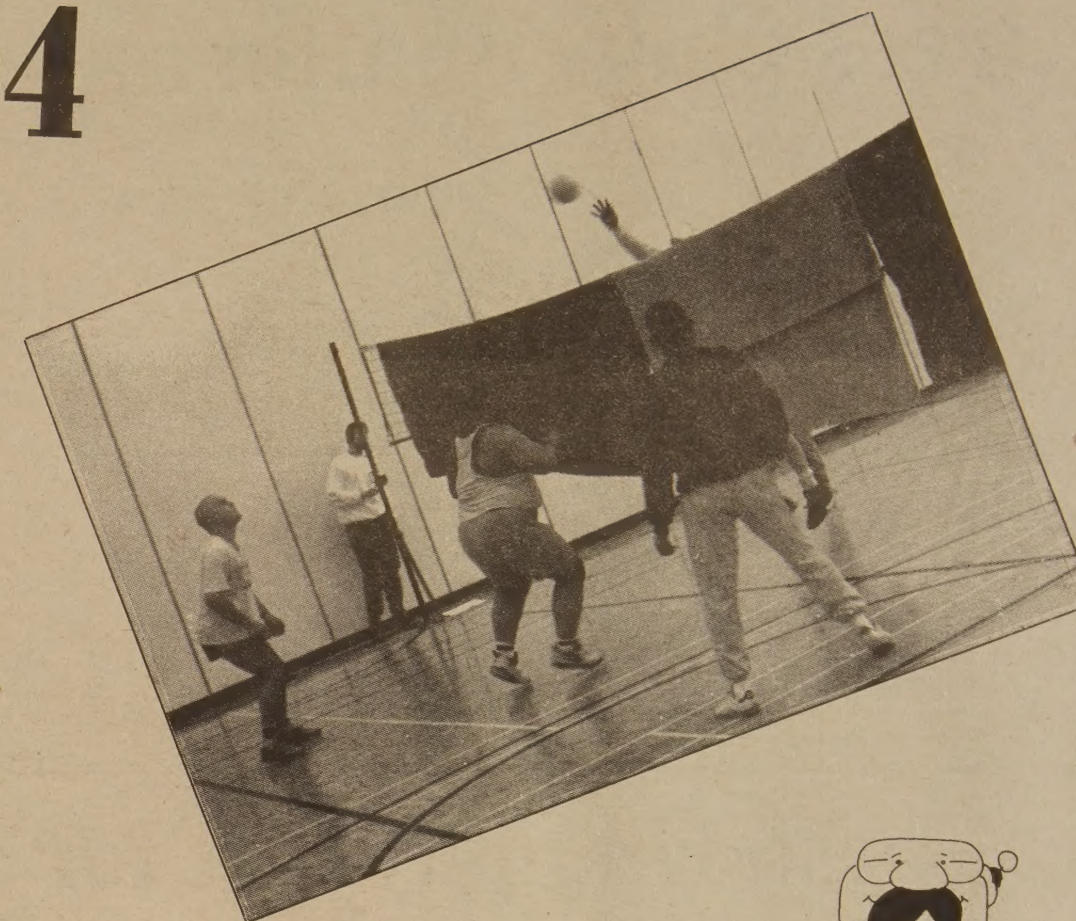


"'Fire with Fire' has enough energy and honesty on every page to make a unique singer out of the most reluctant, turned-off reader." - Gloria Steinem

TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS, PLEASE CALL THE CENTRE
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SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 1994, 2:00 PM AT THE
PARKWAY COMPLEX, 327 ONTARIO STREET
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

WINTERCOURSE '94

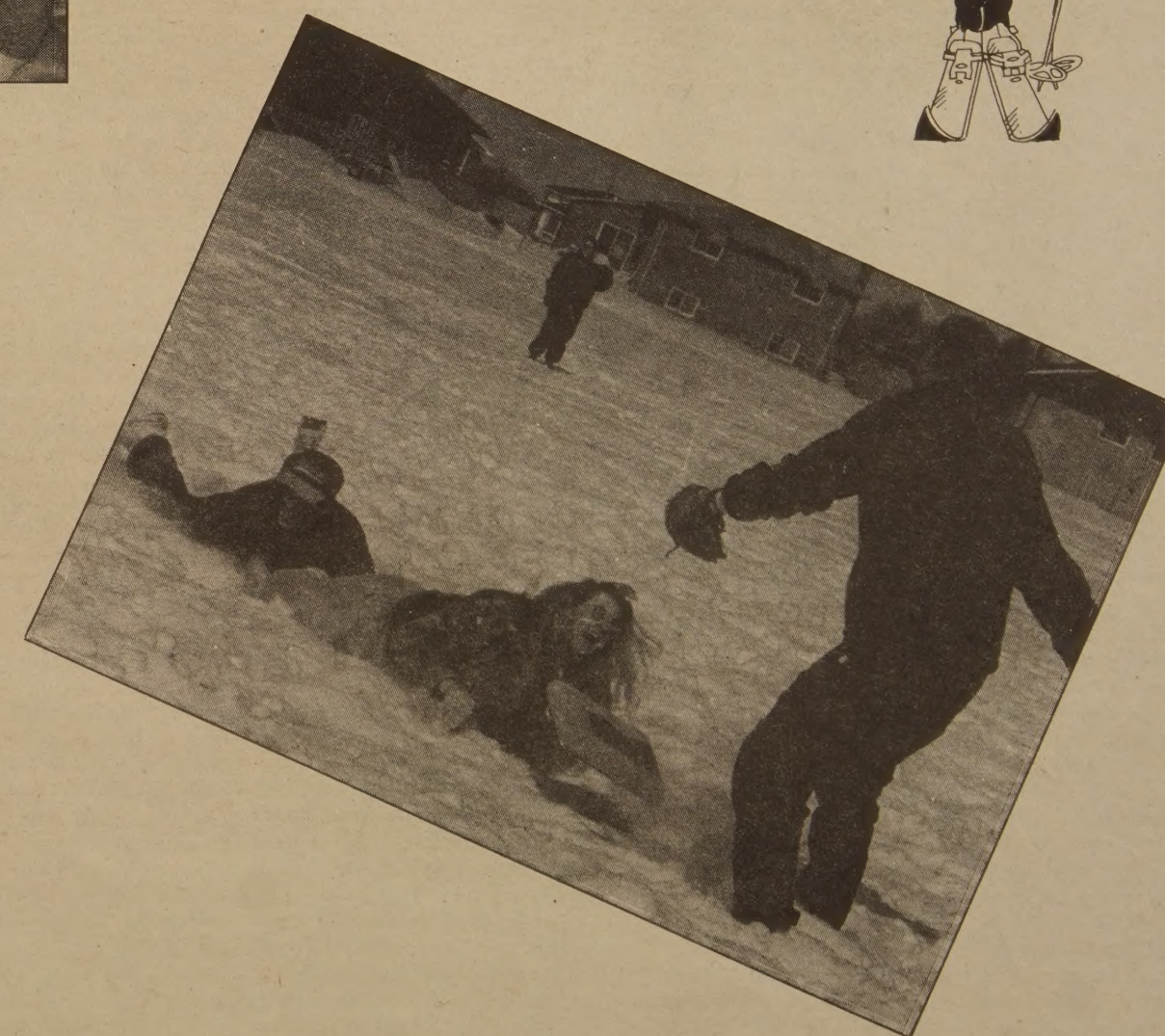
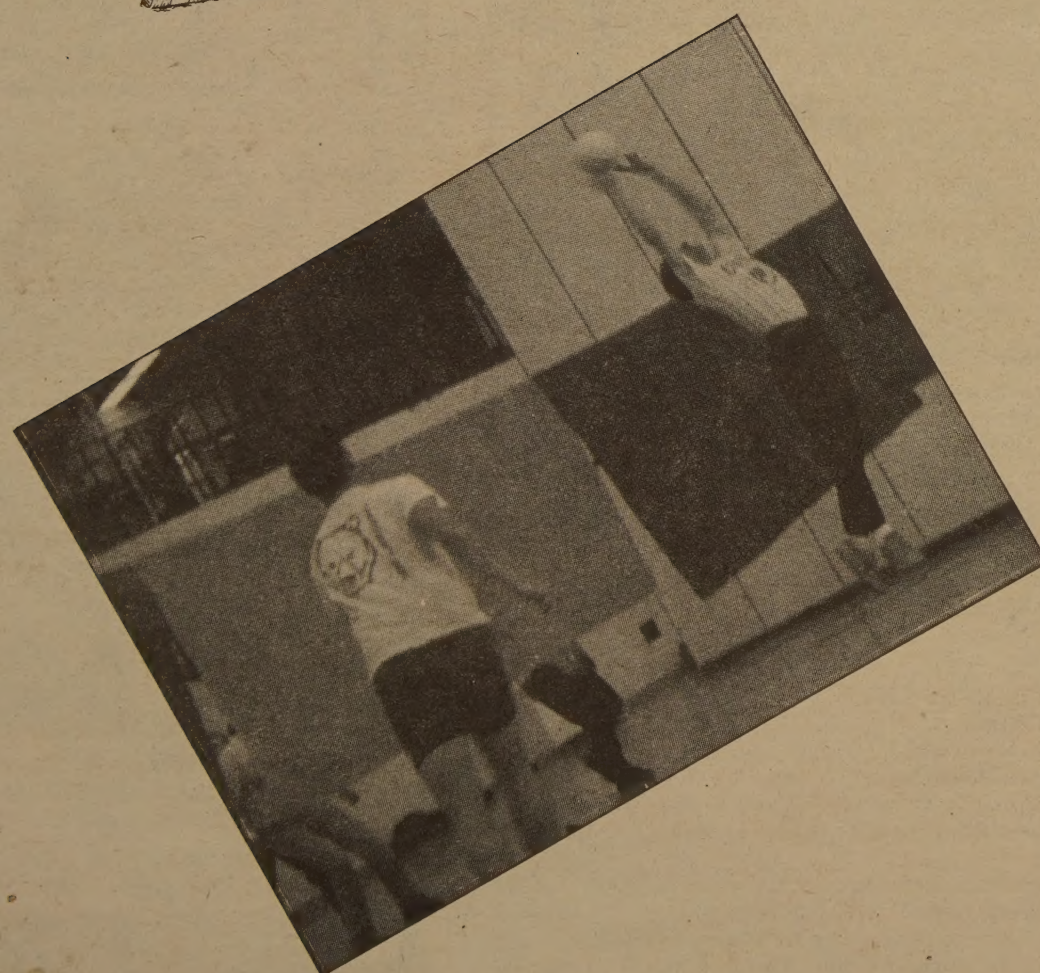


Top left: Carl Bocchinfuso is pumped up for sumo wrestling held in After Hours on Wednesday.
Above: Adin Bradley (left) and Phil Morin clash in front of cheering spectators.
Below: An unidentified student leaps through the air in an effort to make the big play at third during snow pitch.
Bottom right: Donell Stayzer attempts to scramble back to an elusive first base.

Photos by Greg Furminger

Bottom left and top right, Niagara students compete in a "blind" volleyball tournament.

Photos by Al Gilday



ENTERTAINMENT

Retirees choose 'alternate' lifestyle



Johanna von Bormann, co-owner of Station to Station record store, 386 St. Paul St., St. Catharines.

Photo by Adele Nagy

Couple prove music isn't for the young only

By ADELE NAGY
Staff Writer

Johanna von Bormann and her husband Felix are retired - but you would never know it. Johanna, 65, and Felix, 66, own and operate Station to Station, an alternative music store at 386 St. Paul St. in St. Catharines. They also specialize in ordering on request from England and the United States and have a smaller classical and jazz section. In addition to the new CDs they have on stock, they also offer lower-priced used CDs and the option to listen to what you want to buy, before you decide to buy it.

Station to Station, open for five years in February, started as a partnership between Felix and his son, Niki, who now lives in Vancouver and operates the same kind of store. Johanna says "he has very good taste." She says Niki came up with the idea for the business after going to Europe and seeing how they did things there.

Johanna, commenting on her involvement in the business, says "it is not usual for someone who is 65-years-old to like this kind of music." She says over the years she has become like a second mother to many customers, one calling the store a "home away from home." She says the young people like having someone to listen to them talk about their music, or receive sympathy from when they have the flu, or a cold.

Johanna says "I really do enjoy the kids. You learn more from your customers than from anything else. You have to listen — you have to have an open mind, and be willing to try anything."

'Extra' pestering pays off for actor

By PEGGY TEDDER
Staff Writer

The words seem to spill from her, "This man your honor, this doctor, not only violated my body but he violated my hopes and dreams as well as my trust."

The jury and spectators react to the injustice that has befallen this poor young woman. Each and every face registers shock and disbelief. Such are the real-life trials facing our justice system today.

But this situation is not real. It is the set of Babymaker: The Dr. Cecil Jacobson Story, a TV movie starring Melissa Gilbert. The jury and spectators are movie extras.

Anonymous faces that fill a crowded street, laughter and conversation that provide ambience in a fine restaurant and spectators in a courtroom are all movie extras. Without them, television and movies would not be made.

Bruno Baglioni, 31, of Beamsville, Ont., was one of the spectators in the courtroom. If you don't happen to see him out and about, you can always catch him on TV. For the last two years he has rubbed elbows with the stars of five TV movies such as Babymaker, nine TV shows and two screen productions. "Although I've never had a speaking part I've played many different roles, from a waiter to a lawyer," says Baglioni.

For many, employment as a movie extra is a stepping-stone to an acting career. Baglioni is no exception. "I knew I wanted to be an actor when I was young and hooked on Elvis Presley movies. When I was 16 I saw a commercial on TV looking for movie extras. I thought it was something that I might be able to do but it involved

registering in an agency/school for about \$500. My parents were struggling just to get by so it was impossible."

Putting his dreams on hold for awhile he worked at odd jobs and as a mechanic's assistant while growing up. As luck would have it one of his customers was an actor he recognized from Canadian TV commercials.

"I asked him how he got started and he gave me the name and phone number of a school in Toronto," he said.

school until they sent him out on an audition for a cable TV movie. "I got a speaking part, but it was a non-paying role for a movie that was at least a 'B' or a 'C' called 'Here Comes the Pain.' An overnight sensation he was not.

Baglioni warns, many schools masquerade as agencies. Schools offer courses, they do not find jobs. They provide you with a list of agencies, after that you're on your own. "Everybody is always asking for money, when you're out there trying to get work you are trying to

movie extras, all types, all shapes and sizes.

Baglioni says this was an agency not a school, and although payment was required for registration and pictures, the pictures would be sent out to casting agents who are in touch with production agencies for movies, television and commercials. He concedes he had a difficult time getting paid for work done, but ultimately through this agency he was spotted and scooped up by another agent. "I've been working ever since," he says with a grin.

In addition to his work with Gilbert, he has worked with such Hollywood stars as Jeremy Irons, Peter Strauss and John Candy. Laura Di Nardo, Baglioni's agent and owner of Nouvel Talent Productions, Burlington, Ont., says if you are a newcomer in this business you have to take what is offered to you, many of her clients are not willing to do this."

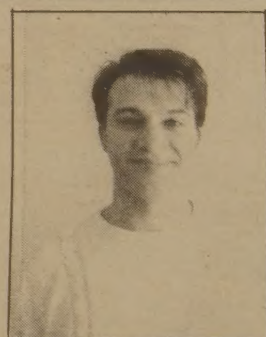
Bruno is really energetic and interested in trying different things, he goes everywhere we send him because he wants to get ahead. People are now asking to have him back," said DiNardo.

Now a divorced father of two, Baglioni has given up his job as a mechanic's assistant and is concentrating on an acting career. Although, he admits his chosen profession is not financially rewarding. "I'm struggling right now but I'm actually being seen on TV. I'm not doing it for the money, I'm trying to be discovered."

His latest venture is an audition for a speaking role in an upcoming YTV sitcom as well as posing for the cover of a Harlequin Romance novel. Look out Fabio!

*'If you want to get ahead
in life and be what you
want to be, you have to
follow your dream'*

Bruno Baglioni



Bruno Baglioni

When he contacted the school he was told he would need a registration fee, this time for \$650. Self-sufficient, he was more than happy to pay in order to become a star. "I was taught how to speak properly by using tongue-twisters, product administration techniques and was able to see myself on camera. But basically it was just a school, they just lure you in and take your money. The only experience I got was never to trust anyone again."

Disenchanted but determined to get something back for the money he'd invested, he pestered the

get paid, not dish it out!"

However, agencies do require a registration fee. Now married and wary of expending more money he decided to "get on with his life." Working as a mechanic's assistant, he joined a modeling agency part-time considering it another way to get into acting. "If you want to get ahead in life and be what you want to be, you have to follow your dream and keep on striving."

It took him 10 years for his big break to come. It came in the form of an advertisement in the Lincoln Post Express in 1992 looking for

Pet Shops' latest

By NOREEN BOND
Staff Writer

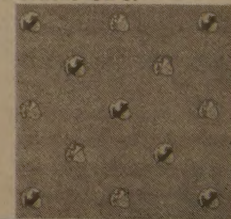
Visit the pet shop.

The British Euro-dance duo Pet Shop Boys recently released their newest CD, *Very*, which features the duo's excellent vocal abilities, along with their great up-beat style of music. The album features a lot of great dance tunes complete with a choir harmonizing on *Go West*.

Neil Tennant and keyboardist Chris Lowe first signed with Parlophone Records in 1985 and released *West End Girls*, their first breakthrough hit. At the time, Tennant was a writer for *Smash Hits* magazine in Britain.

I highly recommend *Very*. It's among the best that the Pet Shop Boys have released. Highlights of the CD include a remake of the Village People's *Go West*, which is receiving a great deal of air play. Other songs include *Liberation* and *Please Forgive Her*.

So if you're into Eurodance music, then this is the CD for you. *Very*, is sure to be remembered as one of the duo's most memorable CDs.



Local artist finds inspiration across the ocean

By ADELE NAGY
Staff Writer

Jo-ann Tsigane Baernstein is an English teacher, writer and an artist, but don't let her hear you saying that.

Baernstein, 52, of Port Colborne, says she doesn't like to label herself.

"I never thought about doing any of this (her writing and art) for money, but times are so hard," she said.

France in the 1920s and lived there "on nothing."

After that, Baernstein taught Renaissance Literature and a course on the modern novel at Brock University in St. Catharines. She said they told her "we're not giving you tenure."

With Ford Maddox Ford fresh in her mind, Baernstein decided to spend some time in the South of

'I don't want to be famous.'
-Baernstein

She taught Creative Writing, English 100 and 200, and Women in Canadian Literature at Niagara College in Welland for 14 years and quit after winning the Loto 649 in 1990. Her book, a thriller-love story called *The Katzenbody Problem*, was published in 1992. She said she decided to do ceramics after getting writer's block.

After receiving a Master of Arts degree in English and American literature from the State University of New York at Binghamton in the late 1960s, Baernstein moved to Yorkville in Toronto, when it was "full of freaked-out hippies" to continue her study of literature at the University of Toronto.

There, she found "stuffy, patriarchal people" who threw her out for literally decorating her doctoral thesis on Ford Maddox Ford, who wrote about the south of

France visiting the places he visited. She stayed a year, after renting part of a stucco farm house with a red-tiled roof in Boulbon, near Avignon.

The Gypsies of southern France impressed her, she said, with their "moving canvases" (their caravans), and the "stuff they used to paint on their wagons."

She said she started thinking about modeling after visiting museums in France, where she could almost "see the hand of the maker."

The idea for her little naked nymphs, made out of clay, budgie gravel, tobacco and covered in home-grown flowers, was formulated after seeing pictures of the clay goddesses that archeologist Marie Gimbutas dug up near Sarajevo. Baernstein said Gimbutas, who recently passed away, "went to Harvard when no woman did."



Jo-ann Tsigane Baernstein cradles one of her creations at For the Love of Books bookstore, 30 King St., Welland, where a wide selection of her work is on display.

Photo by Adele Nagy

"Gimbutas started the Goddess movement which is the big thing now in Feminism."

It is about the time in history, "way before Christ," when the world operated under a matriarchal society. She said she "made a long

study of women's history because men's history is so boring. You read about wars - who plagued who."

Baernstein reminds us that "women weren't considered persons till the 1920s, when the Person's Act stated women are peo-

ple. She said that happened not until after the First World War and now women are making 70 per cent of what men make.

"I don't want to be famous. My goal in life is not to starve," she said.

Spanish no barrier to latest Gipsy Kings offering

By ADELE NAGY
Staff Writer

The Gipsy Kings have again proven that music is a language unto itself.

Their new CD, *Love and Liberte*, carries on the tradition of recordings which are only sung in Spanish, yet which still have result-

ed in over 10 million in record sales and soldout concerts worldwide.

Love and Liberte again features virtuosic flamenco guitar playing from Tonino Baliardo and heart-stopping vocals from lead singer Nicolas Reyes and his brother, Canut.

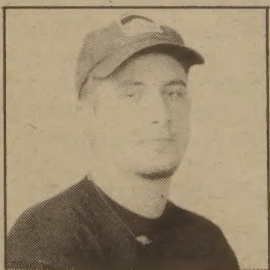
But don't expect to hear just a



lone guitar and traditional flamenco singing, the Gipsy Kings are like a glass prism which absorbs the light from various musical traditions and creates a rainbow. Their Gypsy roots in the south of France are reflected here, as well as Latin, rock, West Indian, and Arabic influences.

Every song is wonderful, each a musical revelation and each instrumental a true artistic achievement which Tonino plays with a beauty that is difficult to describe. This is Gipsy King magic at its best, which they will be sharing with us on March 14th and 15th at Massey Hall in Toronto.

Mosh, mosh, mosh



By TODD L'ECUYER
Staff Writer

March is the month for moshing!

The month will kick off when the doom sounds of Type O Negative fill the cracks of Lee's Palace, 529 Bloor St. W., in Toronto on March 4. Type O Negative will be playing in support of their amazing latest release, *Bloody Kisses*. Opening the show will be Life of Agony and Stick.

The word is RPM in Toronto

will play host to Fishbone and Biohazard on March 6. The pool will be open and Fishbone fans will either swim or drown. This show is sure to be a frenzy of moving bodies as Biohazard is always sure to work up a good pit.

Sepultura will be playing the Palladium at 635 Danforth Ave., in Toronto on March 16 with Fudge Tunnel, Fear Factory and Clutch. This is a bill that should have enough audio power to stun the hardest of the hardcore. Can a heavier lineup be put together?

As for local shows, Vancouver's own Face of Fear will be playing Jerry's Alley, Thursday, Feb. 24 with Hardground, Thinner and Buttermilk Five.

See you in the pit!

Demons serve it 'Extra Crispy'



By NOREEN BOND
Staff Writer

The Demons have released their fifth album, *Extra Crispy*.

The group Shuffle Demons, consists of lead Richard Underhill, saxist Perry White, tenor David Parker, drummer Stitch Winston and bass Mike Milligan, who recently replaced George Koller.

Extra Crispy represents a more alternative direction for the Demons, as they have changed their image to fit their new grunge-jazz sound. It has been 15 years since Underhill

has been without a goatee. He has since decided to get rid of it to help fit his new image.

In the past, the Demons wore berets and shades, along with their fancy threads. But the Demons have stripped away their jazz-like clothing for a more suitable and modern image. The Demons have taken a liking to just plain old street clothing instead. Only Parker is still wearing a beret, while White



is the only Demon sporting shades.

Extra Crispy features songs such as *Dirty Money*, their first video and *Shuffle Groove*, which have great potential of becoming

alternative hits. Classic covers on the album include an instrumental version of Gordon Lightfoot's classic, *Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* along with an up-beat version of Hawaii 5-0. The Demons show their humorous side with *Deli Tray*, *Reggae Man* and *Funkin' Pumpkin*. Their real jazz style comes through in *Perry's Groove* and *Never Be The Same*.

The first half of the album focuses on alternative, while the other half is all jazz. This allows Demon fans who aren't familiar with their jazz to see the Demon's serious side of music as well.

From the provocative cover, featuring the illusion of a body made from bacon to the Demon's hot sound, 'Extra Crispy' proves to be one of the Demon's strongest albums since their debut 'Streetniks.'

SPORTS

Hockey Knights can't catch Seneca-lose 4-3

By **STUART MCDONALD**
By Staff Writer

After losing to the Seneca Braves 14-2 in mid-November, the hockey Knights battled back from a 4-1 deficit Feb. 12 only to come up one goal shy against the team with college hockey's best record.

The 4-3 loss against the Braves was "a good game for the team," said Knights' coach Fred Bassi. "I think we finally realized we can beat this team (Seneca)."

The Knights change lineups often, and this week's game was no exception. Winger Mike DeCoff, playing his first game for Niagara, scored the Knights' third goal on a power play with two minutes remaining in the game.

Although DeCoff scored, "It was very hard for him to get used to this game right off the bat," said Bassi. "It would have been nice to play a weaker team for him to get his legs."

DeCoff was in, but former Ontario Hockey League defence-

man Jason Harris was still out with a shoulder injury.

"If we happen to get Harris back in the lineup it will change our whole game," said Bassi. "Harris came out once (to practice) last week. We've got to get Duerden (Chris) back into playing shape and then maybe we can make a run at it."

Aside from DeCoff's third period goal, goal scorers for Niagara included Scott Punnett and John Anger.

Punnett tallied two minutes after Seneca opened the scoring nine minutes into the game. Niagara went into first intermission tied at one, despite being outshot 11-3 in the first period.

Seneca scored three straight goals until Anger slapped the puck past Seneca's goalie with just over three minutes left in the game.

After the goal, Seneca's Steve Peterson knocked Niagara's Joe Covelli to the ice and received a two-minute penalty for the late hit.

Peterson then skated towards the Knights' bench, only to veer off at the last second and head to the penalty box.

Once in the box, he traded insults with a fan until the referee ejected him from the game.

The resulting Niagara power play led to DeCoff's goal and a series of fights. Niagara's Dave Crane and Seneca's Don Monteith faced off in the main bout.

At centre ice the teams traded insults, shoves and a few punches until the referee separated the players, sending them to their respective benches.

The game resumed 10 minutes later and although the Knights pulled their goalie, they couldn't score the tying goal. The loss moves the team to 6-6-2 on the year.

The hockey Knights' next home game is on Feb. 18 against Kitchener's Conestoga College at the Welland Arena. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



The twine bulges behind the Seneca Braves' goalie as the Niagara Knights score their third goal Saturday. The Knights lost 4-3 to the Braves and are now 6-6-2 on the year.

Photo by Stuart McDonald

Basketball Knights rout Saints

By **TOM BRANK**
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights Men's Basketball team moved one step closer to a playoff bid with a big 83-61 win over the St. Clair Saints last Friday night in the Mackenzie gym.

The first half was tough for the Knights, who were besieged with turnovers and early foul trouble. The Knights offense struggled at the start and was forced to play catch up with the Windsor team.

After building a comfortable nine-point lead mid-way through the first half, the Saints went into intermission up by four.

But the Knights came out strong in the second-half, playing hard at both ends of the court. Knights' centre Paul Grummett began to score inside the key. Aggressive rebounding from Frank Keltos charged the defense.

Niagara led 52-46 with 11:31 left on the clock. Scott Currie swished a three-pointer. Grummett followed with back-to-back three-pointers and the lead was pushed to 15, less than two minutes later.

Niagara continued to add to its lead from the foul line and the rout was on. Solid Knight defense throughout the second half kept the Saints from mounting any comeback.

Grummett finished the game with 30 points. Keltos added 24. Mark Mulawka led the Saints with 16.

"We had to win to stay in the (playoff) race, and the guys came up big," said head coach Todd Stevens.

"We took away their offensive



Knight centre Paul Grummett breaks the St. Clair defense to score two of his 30 points last Friday night.

Photo by Tom Brank

rebounds," he said. "We just came out (in the second half) and stopped them cold from getting second and third shots, and that took them right

out of their game."

Niagara's next game is against Sheridan College tonight at 7 p.m. in the Mackenzie gym.

Royals Flush Knights

By **CRAIG LITCHFIELD**
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team suffered a double set back in their match with Redeemer College on Feb. 11 in Ancaster, Ont.

In losing the match to the Royals, they also lost their strongest middle player, third-year veteran Brent Roszell, to an ankle injury.

Niagara came out firing in the first game and gunned their way to a 15-7 victory behind Roszell's six kills.

The second game would see Redeemer jump on the Knights with a quick 12-3 lead. The Knights would bear down, but it was not enough as Redeemer escaped with a 15-12 win and the momentum.

The third game was all Redeemer, with Richard Vanhauzen's power at the net assuring them a 15-6 toppling of the Knights.

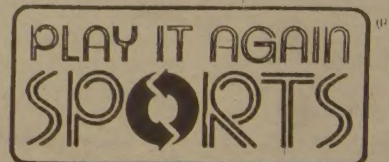
The Knights seemed to wise up in the fourth game, taking an early 6-1 lead. The wheels fell off when Roszell went down with an injured ankle. The Royals smelled blood and attacked, shutting down the Knights the rest of the way and taking a 15-6 victory for the match.

But despite his injury, Roszell led the offence with 16 kills, while Jim Konrad and Kevin Blundell contributed 10 and nine respectively. Once again rookie Franz Shuster led the defence with four blocks.

Roszell's injury is day-to-day and coach Ray Sarkis said he is not about to rush him back to action. Franz Shuster will attempt to fill the hole at middle.

The Knights travel to a tournament at George Brown College in Toronto this weekend.

"Hopefully we have a good weekend. It would be nice to win two out of three," said Sarkis.



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Chretien implements anti-smoking campaign

By PEGGY TEDDER
Staff Writer

Intensified enforcement by the RCMP to combat the illegal reimportation of Canadian cigarettes from the United States is now in effect at key spots along the Canada-U.S. border.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien said immediate action be taken in order to combat cigarette smuggling in his National Action Plan to Combat Smuggling issued Feb. 8, 1994.

"Smuggling is threatening the safety of our communities and the livelihood of law-abiding merchants," the prime minister said. "It is a threat to the very fabric of Canadian society. We are taking decisive action today to stop it."

The federal government plan includes funding anti-smoking measures through a surtax on tobacco manufacturing profits; and reduce tobacco consumption, particularly by young people.

"We are committed to providing the RCMP with the staff they need in order to carry this out," said Lincoln MP Tony Valeri.

Valeri says manufacturers have been marketing "kiddie packs" with

fewer cigarettes, and a lower price to entice the young buyers. The federal government will ban "kiddie packs," in order to reduce tobacco consumption by young people, as well as raise the legal age for buying cigarettes.

"If we increase the tax on cigarettes what would stop the manufacturer from increasing the size," Valeri said.

Highlights of the government's plan include:

1) Intensified enforcement by RCMP and Revenue Canada personnel at targeted smuggling areas along the Canada-U.S. border.

2) A federal tax reduction of \$5 a carton, effective Feb. 9. The federal government will match any provincial tax reduction over \$5, to a maximum federal reduction of \$10.

3) An export tax of \$8 a carton to be paid by tobacco manufacturers.

4) A three-year health promotion surtax that will increase by 40 per cent the rate of federal tax paid by tobacco manufacturers on their manufacturing profits. Revenue generated by this measure will fund a major public education program.

5) Marking packages and individual cigarettes to differentiate cigarettes manufactured for domestic and export use.

6) Other legislative amend-

ments to facilitate enforcement by allowing provincial police forces to enforce certain provisions and to allow police to destroy seized cigarettes before trial.

Experts said this is expected to be the most intensive anti-smoking campaign in Canadian history.

"The federal government is expected to lose in the short term but we as Canadians would lose much more in the long term if we didn't do this," said Valeri.

Smokers fuming over ban

By GREG FURMINGER
Staff Writer

Smokers at Niagara College are fuming after word got out last Monday that the provincial government may ban smoking on all college property.

Student Administrative Council executive vice-president Trevor Obee learned of Bill-119 while at an Ontario Community College's Student Parliamentary Association conference Feb. 5. The bill, which could prohibit cigarettes from being sold in vending machines and raise the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 19, calls for banning access to tobacco at Ontario colleges.

Obee said OCCSPA immediately established the Student Smoker's Rights Association (SSRA) upon learning of the bill in order to organize student feedback which will be sent to the provincial government.

Form letters were created and made available for Niagara students to sign which were to be couriered to Queen's Park this week.

Leaflets distributed by Obee claimed that the bill will prevent smoking anywhere on campus — including outside buildings, in the student centre or in parking lots.

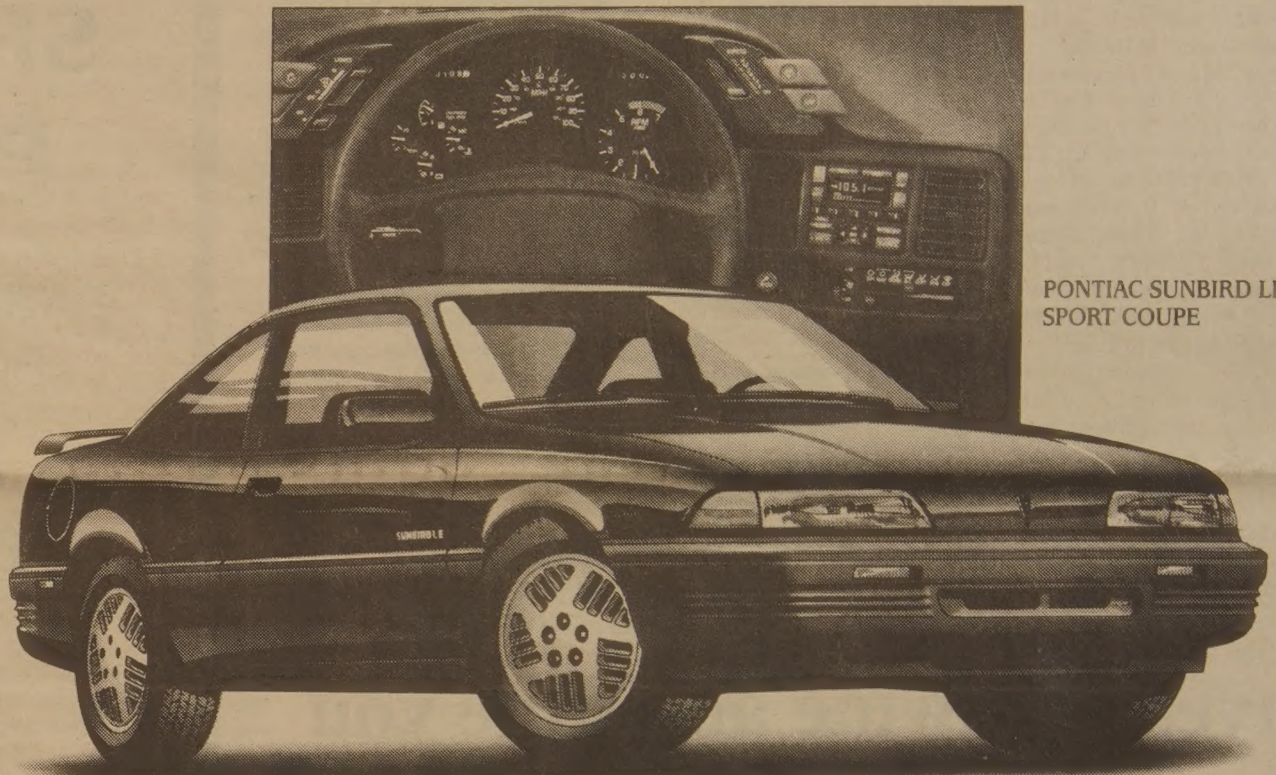
Legislation, however, states: "No person shall smoke tobacco or hold lighted tobacco in... a school, post-secondary educational institution or private vocational school." No reference to outside smoking is given in Bill-119.

The biggest concern of the smoking ban is to After Hours-student centre manager Donna Flutur.

continued on page 19.

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Local group speaks for the rights of animals

By NOREEN BOND
Staff Writer

Why worry about animal rights? It's not just a matter of animal rights — it's more a matter of human obligations. We should try to alleviate suffering wherever we can. Helping animals is not more or less important than helping human beings — it is all important. All species fear injury and all species fight for life. How then, can one species consider that it has the right to deny others their basic interests? Animal and human suffering are noticeably interlinked. They should not be viewed separately.

Animal Activist, Catherine Ens, is a member of Niagara Action For Animals (NAFA), an organization formed by local people who work through education, towards eliminating the abuse of animals. It began five years ago as a club at Brock University and has progressed to a large group. NAFA holds monthly meetings in the Trivial Recruit room at Brock.

NAFA has 250 members who are on a mailing list and about 10 to 15 members who attend the monthly meetings. A membership fee of \$10, contributes to the care of animals. Donations go to producing and distributing educational materials, building a lending library, holding public forums for guest speakers and buying media time to publicize animal-related issues.

Also NAFA's donations go to organizing petitions and peaceful demonstrations, letter writing campaigns, support groups and hands-on assistance to animals in distress. "We don't need a lot of money to do the things we do," said Ens. "Our main goal is to inform the public about the issues."

NAFA tries to keep in touch with other groups that are interested in the same issues so that they can co-ordinate efforts. There are 25 other groups involved across Canada. "When you decide to do something like this (getting involved), you have more of an impact if you do it with a lot of other groups," Ens said. "The group is an on-going thing. We are part of something that is changing all the time."

Animal testing has been occurring for 70 years. If a company produced soap, they would use animals to find out if consumers could develop a rash from their product. Whereas before, families didn't



have so many products to choose from, so they would usually make their own. "Cosmetic companies wouldn't have stopped testing if consumers hadn't sent them letters," said Ens.

Proctor and Gamble and Gillette are two companies that still test on animals. "L'oreal and Avon have just recently stopped testing," Ens said. To know which companies test and which don't, read the labels and advertising. "It seems that companies that do take the effort to stop, make it known," said Ens.

In a pamphlet distributed by NAFA, the group claims that there is no law in this country that prohibits any experiment, no matter how painful or pointless. The Animals for Research Act is basically a housekeeping act, anything can be done to an animal, it can be starved, electroshocked, driven insane, force fed toxic substances, or burned with a blow-torch, as long as it's in a clean laboratory. The statutes covering cruelty to animals, in other areas, are equally lax or vague and difficult to enforce.

People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is a national organization that gets involved in every way to help protect animals. They protest at Marineland, circuses and film inside footage in laboratories to show testing. PETA'S slogan is, "Animals are not ours to eat, wear or experiment on." Their main strategies are to stop animal experimentation, factory farming and the wearing of fur coats. "Our group subscribes to their magazine, we want to be sure to be up to date," Ens said.

Puppy mills breed dogs for quantity. A female dog is bred until she can't breed anymore, then she is done away with. The puppies become physically and emotionally sick because they are housed badly. Bad housing can cause problems later in dog's life. The dog can become uncontrollable. The puppies are taken away from their mother at an early age. "The time puppies spend traveling should be spent socializing with people," Ens said. Socializing occurs between four and six weeks old.

To stop breeding in puppy mills,

people are urged to find alternative ways to purchase animals. "Try to get an animal that's going to be put down," said Ens. A place includes your local Humane Society. If you prefer a purebred dog, try a reputable breeder.

For more information on how you can help, contact NAFA at P.O. Box 214, Thorold, Ont. L2V 3Y9. Make people aware that the exploitation of other creatures demeans us all.

Cuvee will wine and dine you

By DIANA BERARDI
Staff Writer

For the first time, the best of the Hospitality and Tourism Centre's students will be offering the best of Niagara Region's wine and cuisine during Cuvee 1994 from March 4 to 6.

Michael Stadlander, widely considered Canada's premier chef, will be choreographing and orchestrating the Cuvee 1994 Gala Evening, March 4 at the Skyline Brock Hotel.

Cook apprenticeship and culinary skills students will be doing all of the preparation and manning the 15 food stations at this event, said Albert Cipryk, instructor at the centre and faculty advisor for Cuvee. "This will be an excellent opportunity for the students."

Cuvee is a weekend dedicated to

the celebration of the best in wine-making and cuisine.

A select group of 30 students will begin preparations for this event on Tuesday, Feb. 22, said Cipryk.



A range of first year to graduating-level students have been chosen to assist Stadlander create "elaborate food displays," he said.

Doors to the Cuvee 1994 Gala Evening open at 7 p.m. Tickets are

\$85 a person and attendance is black tie optional. Included with the admission ticket is a candle-light jazz feature along with coffee and dessert.

Other events include Cuvee en Route, a series of private, educationally-oriented wine tastings, luncheons and dinners, on March 5 and 6. Each event is individually priced and booked directly with the winery or a Cuvee en Route passport is available for \$20 a person.

An invitation only, in depth examination on the issue of Wine Sub-appellations by Ontario's winemakers will also take place on March 5.

For more information on Cuvee 1994 events and to purchase tickets contact Grey Gables School at (905) 685-4577.

Help Wanted

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Love Canal's toxic waste creates crimeless ghetto

By **JOHN SARKO**
Staff Writer

There is a crimeless ghetto in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

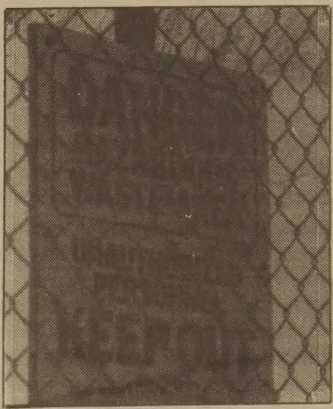
A neighborhood lined with condemned and boarded-up houses. A Children at Play sign stands where no children have played for years. There are other signs.

Signs that warn of hazardous material - toxic waste.

This is the Love Canal.

At the heart of the tragedy on 102nd street between Buffalo Avenue and Colvin Drive, the devastation caused by the late-1970s dump site discovery still exists.

There is one occupied residence on a suburban street that hasn't seen much suburban activity over the past 15 years. This is the legacy of Occidental Chemical.



Margherita Howe knows this legacy well. Howe, 72, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., fought, along with others in the late-1970s to have some of the estimated 250 dump sites along the American side of the Niagara River cleaned up.

Howe became an environmental watchdog when a chemical waste disposal company in Youngstown, N.Y., proposed building a pipeline

to the Niagara River. A community outcry on both sides of the border sparked public hearings. Howe met people from Love Canal whose lives had become nightmares. She decided to do what she could to improve the situation that was leading to the devastation of Niagara's waters.

"Love Canal was coming to light at the same time," says Howe. "I'd go to hearings and meet the people who lived there. They were going through this awful time. Chemicals were coming up through basements and their children were suffering ailments as a result of the contamination."

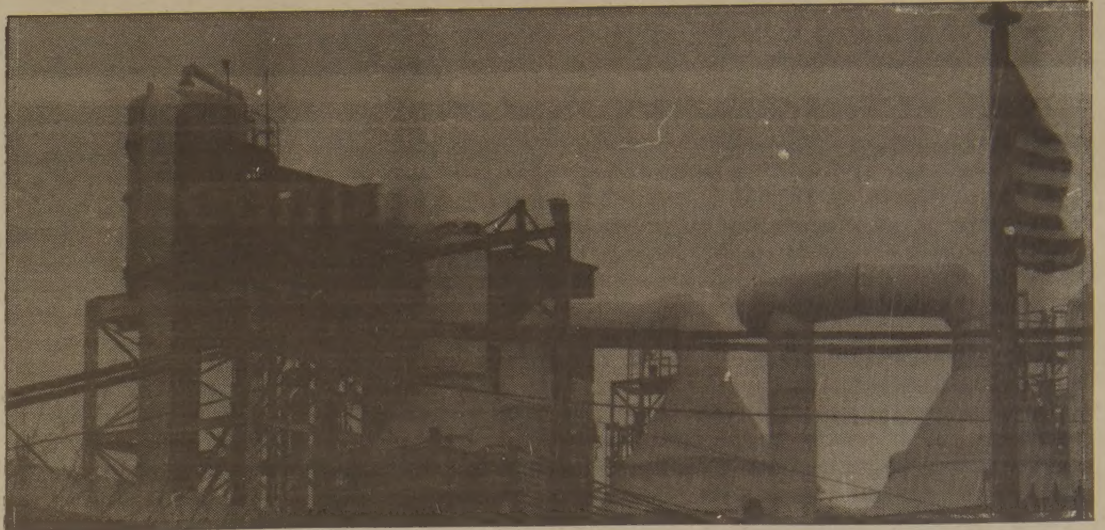
The Love Canal situation received extensive media coverage because of the families that had been living there in 1978. Because of Howe's age and involvement she became part of the story and at 57 was considered to be a rarity. "I was part of the older generation. People involved in the environment were usually the younger hippy generation."

"We had tremendous press. It just mushroomed as the media caught it up. In the late 70s concern for these issues heightened," says Howe, adding there are about 60 dump sites along the Niagara River that are leaking hazardous waste.

"The Love Canal case was certainly serious but there are other more dreadful landfills that are leaching into and causing problems for the Niagara River and Lake Ontario."

"All of them were dump sites owned by Occidental Chemical who had used them to get rid of their waste materials," she says.

Howe doesn't blame the engineers responsible for dumping the waste. She has met a lot of the people involved on both sides of the problem over the years. "People I've met insisted they did not know



This plant on Buffalo Avenue, also known as chemical alley, is located in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Chemical producers have given Niagara area residents a legacy of hazardous waste.

Photo by John Sarko

the implications of what they were doing. I believe them. The science of hydrogeology is relatively new," she says. Leakage from some sites can be seen on the rock face of the Niagara gorge.

It was to educate and make people aware of the situation that moved Howe to action. "We achieved success in the sense of people becoming aware in the Niagara Region. They were the best educated of anyone in Canada at that time," says Howe.

She sued Occidental Chemical in the late 1970s because of, "the diliterous effects on Canadian health caused by the Hyde Park dump site damaging the water supply of Lake Ontario," recalls Howe. Eventually the suit was dismissed. "It is very difficult to prove a case. To prove liability."

"You'd get frustrated all the time. You had to make your own high points. You had to take the initiative

which in turn would bring attention to the situation and you just hoped to hell that what you were doing was right and would turn out," says Howe.

In 1981, Howe successfully sued Cyanamide Chemical for discharging hazardous material into the Welland River under The Canadian Fisheries Act. A spirit of responsibility existed as people volunteered their time and services in order to win the case and improve their local environment. "People believed so strongly in what they were doing. They did it for free. This trend has reversed itself," says Howe.

Howe is known for her aggressive attitude and for not letting a plodding bureaucracy stand in her way. "Governments are traditionally backwards and part of this blame falls on the municipalities. They are not interested in showing leadership," says Howe.

These days she takes school children down to the mouth of the Niagara River and explains to them what has happened to the water. Although 90 percent of the pollution in the Niagara River comes from the American side, Howe says, there is no benefit to placing blame.

"At the mouth of the river it is terribly clear how close we are to the U.S. They have a huge industrial base. Much larger than us. Given the chance we would've screwed things up just as bad," says Howe.

During the Second World War she taught night vision. By projecting images on a screen and talking to a room full of soldiers she could determine who was better for nighttime activities. "You could help them see in the dark by giving them techniques they could use," says Howe. The ability to help people see in the dark is a skill she has carried with her.

Geon keeps neighborhood clean

By **GREGORY KELLY**
Staff Writer

Helping keep the neighborhood clean is part of being a good neighbor.

At Geon Canada Inc., in Niagara Falls, being a good neighbor is only part of the reason they follow strict environmental procedures.

Geon produces vinyl products, using a procedure that requires the use of chemicals like Poly Vinyl Chloride. With such chemicals, awareness and care are two important aspects of production.

Carl Reid, the company's senior environmental engineer, said there are many considerations that go into positive environmental awareness.

"Any industry should be a good corporate citizen - employees who work for us also have to live around here and they don't want to spoil the community," said Reid.

Corporate image is also

important. In 1994 receiving bad press for disregarding environmental standards can lead to a long battle with government officials and the public. Geon deals with both Canadian and U.S. environmental legislation because they have plants on both sides of the border.

Reid said the Ontario Ministry of Environment should not be seen as the "bad guy" but as a partner in preserving the environment.

"If you give the government a hard time they'll make things harder on you," Reid said. "They want to make sure progress is being made (concerning the environment) and Geon is always progressing."

Community involvement in the company was never a major concern, but progressing with the times, Geon has begun public tours of their Niagara Falls plant for high school classes in conjunction with such global events as Earth Day.

"We don't advertise because our customers are other industries. Now the public in our immediate area know all about us," said Reid.

A major part of keeping up with environmental standards is incorporating those measures in daily practice which helps to keep employees up to date on new procedures. Equipment like chromatographs, which cost about \$100,000, measure the smallest release of Vinyl Chloride and registers that release on the company computer keeping them informed of any problems.

Big corporations have had to face the responsibility that they must make progress in the care of the environment or shoulder the brunt of their actions through fines and lawsuits. At Geon, they work hard at taking care of the environment, said Reid.

"If you are sloppy you should be fined," Reid said. "We all have to live here."

Store rides green wave

By **CHARLIE KOSCAK**
Staff Writer

The Crowded House is seeing green.

They may be looking through the reused bottles they sell, but instead the owners are looking after the environment.

Owned and operated by the Harper family, of Ridgeway, Ont., The Crowded House is changing its inventory to more environmentally-friendly products.

Recycled foam rubber place mats and coasters, stationery made from 100 per cent recycled paper and unbleached cotton T-shirts are some of the products the store sells. Old maps from the Department of National Defence have been cut into letter-size sheets of paper to be re-used.

Binders made of computer circuit boards and paintable, cloth, lunch bags - to replace a child's lunch box - are examples of products that keep the land-fill sites as empty as possible.

The store deals with reusable

bags made from a natural fiber called jute.

"We plan to deal solely with recycled goods," says Sue Harper.

The path to environmental friendliness is a long one though. "We're learning as we go," she says.

Sheri Gardiner, one of the family members, said no matter what a product is, it's bad for the environment. The store has to "sort out which is worse."

She also said it's important to know how a product is made to decide if it's environmentally friendly or not. A product could be called ecologically sound, but the process used to create the product could harm the planet, she explains.

The store owners plan to host seminars in the summertime regarding environmental issues, she says.

At the end of February, Gardiner and Joyce Harper will attend the National Gift Show in Toronto to look for more recyclable or reusable products.

"It's an exciting new wave," says Gardiner.

Heritage Front challenges media bias

By AL GILDAY
Staff Writer

Mike Bowden, 34, of the Heritage Front Niagara, says he's not a racist.

"I'm not saying I'm white, I'm better. Culturally, yes, I believe in the superiority of Western culture because it's the only culture in the world that allows for individualism and self-expression," he said.

Bowden and fellow Heritage Front member Bill Livingston, 42, were interviewed recently at the college about their newly-formed organization.

The group is not a formal chapter of Heritage Front Canada, but is simply a group of Heritage Front members living in the Niagara area.

"Several members were living in the area and were tired of driving to Toronto all the time," said Bowden.

The Heritage Front's activities in the area have thus far included writing letters and "speaking out."

"We can't take ads out because the media wouldn't run them, so we do a little newsletter that's distributed to our members," said Livingston.

"We've also been trying to motivate people to go to the library and dig through Canadian law and not believe the propaganda that's out there."

The two members are trying to get through to young people, who they believe lack a sense of direction.

"Ninety-five per cent of the skinheads out there are in it for the fashion," said Bowden. "They aren't politically motivated. We're trying to get to the five per cent that are and want to do something."

"Most of our recruiting is by word of mouth," said Bowden. "We had some trouble with the Niagara Falls Library because they wouldn't put our stuff out. It's not like we're hanging out on street corners."

The group holds semi-regular meetings where they discuss current issues in the media, and plan activities for the upcoming months. The organization's membership includes both men and women aged 19 to 64. The group has about 24 supporters.

"We will accept new members, but we've accomplished what we've set out to do," said Bowden.

The Heritage Front prides itself on being different by taking on issues, but doing it with more intellect than most groups, added Bowden. "We're not out there shouting slogans, we're presenting our case objectively."

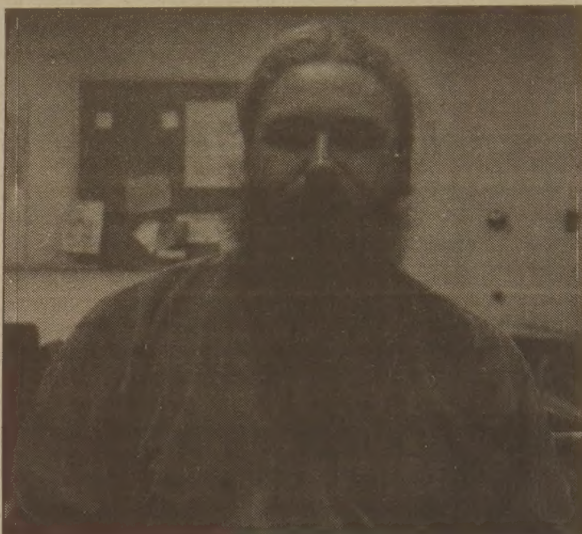
The group has several key issues in which they have cho-

sen to concentrate. The Heritage Front believes there is "a great deal" of reverse discrimination in Canada, said Bowden.

"You've got Somali people (and others) coming over here and getting jobs through employment equity," he said. "He may have never experienced racism, he just got off the plane, but he has a job over me. It's reverse discrimination."

Livingston said he feels the same way. "I'll compete with anyone (for a job), if he gets it, fine, I'll move on. The issue is that preference is being given."

"I believe in the supremacy of the individual, but our gov-



Mike Bowden

ernment is telling us don't be an individual, revert back to your tribe. The government is doing this through things like paid multiculturalism and employment equity."

One of the organization's strongest beliefs is its position on separatism. The two men said they feel religion, politics and culture are all intertwined and that one can't expect people to immigrate to Canada and not try to change the system with their politics.

Bowden said in most cases the politics of immigrants

"don't agree with ours." He used the example of a group of Muslims that tried to opt out of the Family Reform Act several years ago because it was against their culture. "They're not over here doing folk dances, I don't have a problem with that. Multiculturalism is more than folk dancing, it involves politics and philosophies as well," said Bowden.

The Heritage Front members said they don't believe governments shouldn't be funding multicultural activities.

"The Scots, the Ukrainians and others had their festivals and they all used their own money," said Bowden.

Federal government policies concerning immigrants have left businesses confused as well, he said.

"A businessman should be able to hire anyone he wants, even if it is based on race because it's him who is going to fail if he doesn't hire the best person for the job. If I owned a business and the best person to hire was black, I'd have no problem hiring them. It's in my own self-interest not to discriminate," Bowden said.

The Heritage Front representatives also find fault with the fact refugee claimants are now entitled to work while they await their hearing. "If employment equity wasn't in place, I'd say that it was a good thing because it doesn't make sense to have people sitting around, but now there's just going to be more job preference," Livingston said.

Like many people, the Heritage Front believes governments should be tackling the problem of "runaway welfare."

The Heritage Front has 10 chapters across Canada.

Bowden disputes the claim that bad economic times are often blamed for the group's popularity, but he points out most of their members are working middle-class people.

"We're trying to preserve the cultural/political structure of Canada and a lot of times that ties in with racism," Bowden said. "Many of these people don't want to adopt our culture and the government is telling them they don't have to."

He said many people approach Heritage Front members and tell them they support them, but they can't get involved because they would lose their jobs and their homes.

"The media has done a good job of slandering us," said Livingston. "One thing that upsets me is the amount of fear that people have to say what's on their mind. If they open their mouths, they are a racist or a Neo-Nazi."

The organization is planning to run candidates in the next Ontario election. "People will then be able to speak at the ballot box via their vote. There's no names associated with it," Bowden said.

Council addresses cultural equity misperceptions

By AL GILDAY
Staff Writer

"When someone starts talking about one race being superior over another — the bells should be going off that this person is talking about racism," says Jim Millington, of the Niagara Regional Race Relations Council.

Millington says Heritage Front Niagara hasn't done anything that can be considered a violation of anyone's human rights in this area.

"At one time, there was discussion about holding an Aryanfest and picnic last summer, but I don't think that it went over," he says.

The council was concerned about some of the things leader Wolfgang Droege has done in Toronto.

"The thing with the hate line in Toronto and the fact that the Heritage Front was doing some recruiting in the schools has us concerned," says Millington.

Although Millington said he doesn't feel the Heritage Front is a strong force in the region, "there is danger in what they say because when times are bad, people look for groups to blame their misfortune on."

Millington supports the Heritage Front's political intentions for the next provincial election, but says he hopes the group doesn't violate any law or promote anything disparag-

ing regarding a person's race, creed or color.

He recalled how the Heritage Front spoke out against Brock University's admissions policy that guaranteed spaces for students that were members of minority groups. Millington has talked with several minority groups and has found they are against such policies as well. "They just want to be treated equally," he says, adding many minorities oppose multicultural funding.

He says he addressed the issue of hiring quotas with a government minister. The legislation mentions giving opportunities to those disadvantaged in the past.

"I am the director of nursing in a nursing home, which is run by the government, and I haven't seen anything that involved a quota for minorities," says Millington. "I've been asked to encourage more minorities to apply, but without the proper qualifications, they aren't going to get hired."

He says the perception is different from the actual situation.

Millington contends some of the Heritage Front's claims are exaggerated. "I spoke to Alan Borovoy from the Canadian Civil Liberties Association," he says. "His group did a survey of 1,200 employees in 30 service and tourism businesses

in the Sudbury area. Only four natives were employed.

"They did a similar survey in Hamilton last year. They posed as an employer that wished to hire a white person for the job. Out of the 10 employment agencies that were surveyed, seven complied."

"I don't know anyone that hires unqualified people on the basis of

'The council is a referral and advice service for people that have experienced racism...'

Millington

color — if someone did, it would be front-page news."

The council member finds fault with the Heritage Front's stand on native issues. "If they think that the Indian has it so good," says Millington. "I know several that would trade places with them. I lived in Fort Francis for seven years and I was invited to a home on a reservation. There were seven people living in a one bedroom house with no plumbing. With all of the alcoholism and the suicides, the Indians wanted off the reservation in the worst way."

The council meets about four times annually. Its mandate is to help people who have had their

human rights violated and to educate the public on human rights issues through dialogue with various groups.

"The council is a referral and advice service for people that have experienced racism. We have no powers, but we can suggest courses of action for them," Millington says.

Brock professor John Mair, a member of the Regional Race Relations Council, says the group is planning several inter-racial activities for high schools under the Lincoln Board of Education. These activities are designed to alleviate racial tensions believed to exist in some area schools.

"There has been a lot of talk about discrimination against white males," says Mair. "If they feel that they have been discriminated against, they have the benefit of the law. They can go before the human rights commission and lodge a complaint. The council is a race relations council, but we represent all people in the region."

Millington says he doesn't know where the perception began that job preference is being given to minority groups.

"I've talked to people in the police force and they are required to recruit minorities, but it's diffi-

cult to find them and there are no jobs for them once they are recruited," says Millington. "Look at the

'If they are concerned with equity - it should be equity for all people and not just the whites.'

Millington

graduating class — there are very few minority graduates. In Niagara, many people will say the reason why they don't have a job is because they're not the right color or sex, but I think that it's just that the economy is so bad and people are frustrated."

Millington advises Heritage Front Niagara to distance itself from Heritage Front Ontario.

"If they want public support, they should promote the fact that we're all part of the same family and that they are against racism," he says.

"If they are concerned with equity — it should be equity for all people and not just the whites. I don't think that their beliefs are unique, many people share them. Canada has primarily been a white culture, but this isn't the 1950s, it's the 90s, and things must change," Millington says.

Dropping out on the decrease, says counsellor

By ANGELA KOTLARZ
Staff Writer

College dropouts are starting to become a thing of the past.

Brigitte Chiki, a Niagara College counsellor, said she's seeing less and less of students withdrawing from programs.

"We're finding students are being very careful about their college decisions," said Chiki, "and they're asking a lot more questions up front."

She said the bulk of the withdrawals occur within the first two weeks of the semester, when students can still get their money reimbursed.

"After that it's very sporadic because when a student is unhappy, they're unhappy and it doesn't matter what time of year it is," said Chiki.

The good news is withdrawals are less frequent than in the past and, said Chiki, "I don't know if that's due to the economic conditions out there or students are choosing more carefully or transferring within the college."

She said she finds mature students, or non-traditional students, less likely to drop out because of the family or financial sacrifices many of them make in advance.

"Some leave their jobs to attend college or they change their lifestyle

in terms of taking in boarders so they can afford college," said Chiki.

Our student population, she said, is changing so much that, "what was true in the past is no longer true."

Chiki said 20 to 30 per cent of the college's students are returning students and, for some, the gap in their education is five, 10, or 15 years.

More university graduates are coming to college realizing they need to supplement their university degree with some college courses and vice versa, said Chiki.

"I'm finding the main reason for students leaving college is job-related," said Chiki.

They have a chance for a well-paying job, she said, and that is their "immediate need" and that's what they choose to do.

Chiki said she expects to see them back, though. "They've had a taste of college, they know what it can do for them and they will come back in some way, shape or form."

If the reason is not job-related then students usually make an inappropriate program choice, she said.

"Some students assume a program is going to cover something based on the title of it, when in reality it's a whole different program," said Chiki.

The key is to be prepared before entering a program, she said, and

this involves examining and researching it beforehand.

Finances can also determine whether a student will leave college since education is "a very expensive venture nowadays."

"If their Ontario Student Assistance Program has been delayed or isn't what they expected, this can have a great bearing on whether they will remain in college," Chiki said.

For many students, it's important they leave home for a year or two before attending college, she said.

"If the finances and family support systems are in place then students are more apt to stick it out."

System-wide the attrition rate is 45 per cent, said Chiki, meaning if you have 100 students starting in September, 50 of them will complete their education.

"The 45 who didn't complete, though, doesn't include people who transferred or entered the job market and those are considered successes as well."

She said she's really hesitant to use the word *dropout* because if a person drops out of a program it doesn't mean they've dropped out of education altogether.

If students are looking for a recipe or a formula for reducing the chances they will drop out, said

Chiki, "be properly prepared in terms of finances and remind yourself why you're doing this."

Anticipating and dealing with problems during the course of a student's education is also key.

"Use the support services within the college," she said, "because there are a variety of activities on campus to make you feel you're a part of the college."

When a student decides to leave college, an exit interview with a counsellor, who will try to encour-

age them to stay on, is held.

"Usually we end up giving them information on how to get back in when they're ready," said Chiki.

Once they've made the decision, she said, it's very unlikely the counsellor can convince them otherwise.

"We want to make sure they understand the door is still open to them and they usually leave with an okay taste in their mouth about college," Chiki said.

She said she tries to turn what some people see as a negative situation into a positive one.

Ban angers manager

continued from page 15.

"I'm so afraid that it would really affect business," she said, adding she's a smoker herself. Many students come to the centre to escape the cold and sit and relax while having a coffee and cigarette.

"Face it, alcohol and cigarettes go hand in hand."

Flutur said enforcing a policy would be difficult, and noted smoking could be better controlled if it was confined to the student centre. She also said she has been investigating the possibility of installing large smoke-

eaters since the centre opened three years ago.

After Hours may technically be omitted from legislative authority because, although the centre sits on college property, it is "funded solely by the students." Flutur said a percentage of student activity fees go towards paying off the mortgage.

Obee said he was to visit with Mohawk College in Hamilton this Wednesday to confer more about possible exemptions and review the bill further.

HOP INTO THE

•ENTERTAINMENT•

Karaoke
in After Hours
Thursday, Feb. 24
1-5 p.m.

Jon Ljungberg
Caricaturist and Comic
in After Hours
Tuesday Feb. 22
12-4 p.m.

Pool Tournaments
every Thursday
in After Hours
@ 12:30 p.m.

•Transcendental • Meditation

Cynthia Marchand will be speaking in the Hamilton Room Tuesday Feb. 22 at 12:30 p.m.

SAC

(Student Administrative Council)
THIS WEEK'S COMING EVENTS:



•OPEN MIC•

every other Tuesday @ 2 p.m.
in After Hours.

Register in SAC office
See posted flyers for more info!

•SPORTS•

Men's Hockey
Conestoga @ Niagara
Friday Feb. 18
7:30 p.m.

•NOTICE•

UPCOMING
SAC ELECTIONS

Nomination kits will be available for pick up from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Feb. 21-28
in ME-103
(Counselling Office)

•MOVIES•

Thursday:
RESERVOIR DOG

Have a safe and happy March break, from your SAC
SAC...WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU!?

Psychic fair not seen in reporter's future

By STUART MCDONALD
By Staff Writer

The cavernous Queen Elizabeth Building at Exhibition Place in Toronto was the latest venue to house Psychic, Mystic and Seers Fair.

The Toronto fair took place Feb. 11-13 and I attended on the last day with hopes of winning a free crystal ball, the main door prize.

The last thing I expected stepping from the slushy street onto the damp sidewalk outside the pavilion was a bevy of devout Christians handing out anti-occult literature. The flier they gave me warned about the dangers of "Satan, the corrupt angelic ruler of this world," and "these deluded hucksters who are only interested in emptying your wallet."

With an entry fee of \$7.50, the Christians may have been right.

The Christians' flier was the first of many I would receive from 170 small square booths inside the building.

The variety of services offered ranged widely.

The spinal analysis machine from the Toronto Pain and Headache clinic helped diagnose the cause of headaches and backaches. The

machine was an upright, metal, rectangular frame with wires spanning the frame vertically and horizontally.

Standing in the foot space in front of the machine, the "doctors" used the wires to measure the curvature of your spine and determine the cause of your pain.

I decided to ease my pain with more traditional forms of therapy (Tylenol) and skipped the spinal analysis. Other semi-medical services included acupuncture, Shiatsu massages and reflexologists.

Psychics and Tarot card readers were in abundance; however, a variety of other "spiritual" services were offered. There were tea leaf readers, clairvoyants, channellers, palm readers, crystal ball readers, astrologers, numerologists and many more.

Bradley, a 22-year-old trance channeller said he gives advice by consulting a "wise old man" who he originally saw in his dreams when he was four-years-old. He said he used to wake up screaming "the man, the man" when he was a child until his tarot-card reading mother told him the man was "a good entity" and he possessed a "special gift."

Other services included The Shamada, a ceremonial bone reader and Shawnah Johnson, an aura painting interpreter.

The Shamada, an imposing figure, was a large black gentleman with a shaved head and a walking stick. The psychics took turns giving presentations over the three-day fair and I managed to catch some words of wisdom from this internationally-renowned bone reader.

"If a dog attacks you, put out your right hand and shout 'jawaguza' and the dog will back away," said the Shamada, who later urged people not to go looking for stray dogs to practice on.

Other pearls from the Shamada included a lesson on calling your archangel to give you advice. "To call on your archangel it is necessary to take a bath or shower and stand, still wet and completely nude in front of a mirror," he said. "Look over your right shoulder and say 'I come now as a child. Would you please come and help me with my situation?'"

The Shamada added, in a few days the archangel will help you by letting you stumble across the advice you need in the words of a

book or in advice from a friend.

I'm glad I was able to receive some free advice from the Shamada during his presentation, because his services were more costly than most of the fortune tellers at the fair. A basic bone reading from the Shamada cost \$55 while a full reading cost \$90.

Most psychics charged \$30 each, with few charging above \$40.

I wanted to see a psychic too but I wasn't about to pay the going rate. I finally found tarot card readings for \$15 from the Emin Society of Canada.

I decided immediately to move away from Balance

I noticed they operated a little differently than other fortune tellers because they had seven fortune tellers giving readings instead of just one. There was also a pitch-man in front of the stall inviting people to get acquainted with the Emin.

I paid my \$15 and was introduced to a tall, waif-like, boyish-looking girl who called herself Balance. Before my tarot reading, I asked about the Emin Society. Balance said it was a group of peo-

ple searching for the "permanent truths" of the planet.

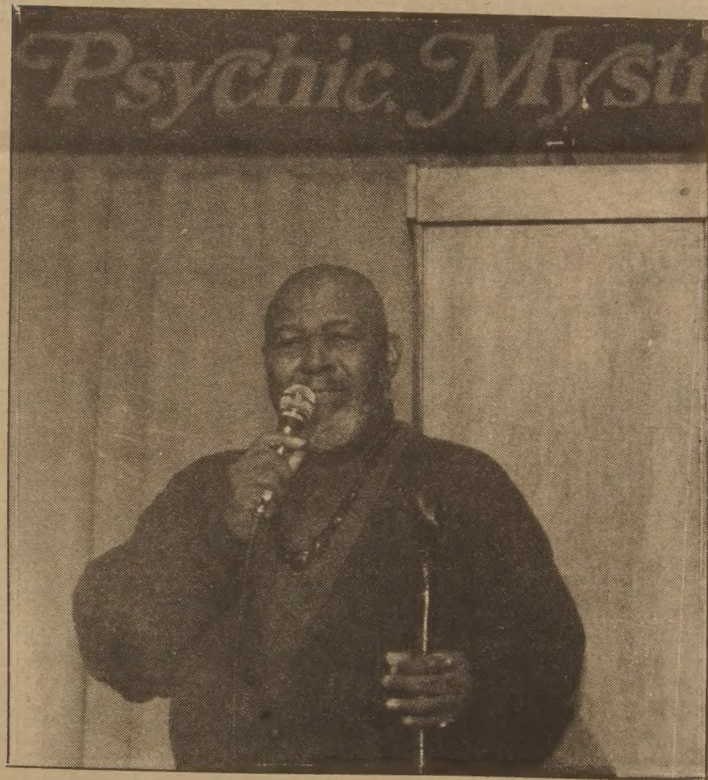
She said she was quite sure the Emin Society had discovered the truths of the earth and that ancient Egypt and North American Indians had discovered some of those truths as well.

Balance talked about halos, electro-magnetic forces in humans and a special way of seeing electricity through the white part of the eye. Our conversation about the Emin lasted about one hour. Then she gave me my tarot card reading, which she later said was more or less a ruse to draw people into the booth to talk about the Emin.

She said she joined the Emin Society because she went to a meeting and saw sparks coming out of her fingers. She was visiting a friend in Toronto at the time and was living in Montreal with her parents.

Because the Emin Society doesn't have a branch in Montreal, Balance said she decided immediately to move to Toronto. I decided immediately to move away from Balance. I gave her a lame excuse and quickly left the fair feeling quite sorry for Balance and her Emin friends.

No more psychic fairs for me.



The Shamada shares his words of wisdom with the psychic fair crowd gathered at Exhibition Place in Toronto. The Shamada told onlookers to use the magic word 'jawaguza' to keep stray dogs at bay.

Photo by Stuart McDonald

1994 NIAGARA GRADUATES

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